

Volume 14

August 2009

June HOA Meeting Highlights

- We continue to have increased input from our neighbors. Our meeting on the 28th featured much discussion and interaction between our homeowners and board members. The board encourages everyone to come and participate in our HOA meetings every 4th Thursday of the month.
- Harris County Sheriff's Deputies Simmons and Thomas were present and spoke with homeowners. They reported that crime is on the rise in our area and elsewhere due to the summer school break, the summer heat, and the poor economy "desperate people do desperate things." They also reported that juveniles are targeting unlocked vehicles and stealing belongings from the vehicles. They reminded homeowners to keep vehicles locked and in the driveway or garage when not in use. The deputies are placing orange flyers on vehicles in the neighborhood that are illegally parked. They will begin giving citations soon. A copy of the flyer can be found elsewhere in this edition of WillowTalk.
- Our Security Coordinator, Julie Dubros, is hosting a meeting for fellow security coordinators and HOA board members from neighboring subdivisions. Communication and collaboration are effective ways to fight crime and keep our communities safe. Special thanks to Julie for taking a proactive approach to keeping our neighborhood safe and secure.
- Pool Rules have been developed and are now displayed at the pool. Please take a moment to read and understand the rules the next time you visit the pool. Keeping the pool safe and fun is the objective of the pool rules.
- The board is in search of a Welcoming Committee coordinator. For details and how to volunteer, please see the related article elsewhere in this edition of WillowTalk.
- Street light electricity can now be obtained through our current energy provider. This will result in a significant savings on our energy costs.
- Khara Mathews of PCMI suggested that the association apply for tax-exempt status. The board agreed to pursue the suggestion and should find out the results of our application in the next few weeks. This could result in several thousand dollars of savings per year. Thanks for the tip, Khara!

If you wish to provide input or discussion topics for the committee, come join us on the fourth Thursday of each month or send an email to Khara Mathews at PCMI.

Curious? Come Find Out for Yourself

By Walter Griffin

Several months ago, I wrote a newsletter article addressing the aftermath of Hurricane Ike in our neighborhood. How many of you are prepared for this hurricane season? Well, like it or not it is here. And as I predicted, I did not keep my equipment serviced properly and am in the process of overhauling the carburetor on my old generator in anticipation of a power outage or two.....seems that I am always procrastinating about something, but I'll get to that topic at a later date.

This article pertains to our neighborhood security, our home security, and our personal security. It's always easiest to point the finger at the other person, group, or organization and say that we expected them to "take care of it". Well, for as little as it is worth these days, it's time to stop passing the buck.

NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY

Do you know how many deputies we have patrolling our neighborhood at any given time? Do you know where they are stationed? Who is paying for the deputies? How is that money being collected? Would you be surprised to find out who is paying and who is not and why? Do you know the number to call for assistance? How many incidences of an unlawful nature occurred last month? Do you know about the illegal activities (robberies, thefts, purse snatching, disfiguring property, etc) that are taking place within a 5 mile radius of our neighborhood? What was the outcome of the incident concerning painting graffiti on the tennis courts and fence? Or the damage by local teenagers to the parking garages only a mile or so from our neighborhood? Who is your Block Captain? Do they frequently communicate with you concerning security issues?

(Continued on Page 3)

Willowbridge - Stonebridge

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

All Emergencies911
Harris County Sheriff
Harris County Animal Control
Cy-Fair Hospital
CenterPoint - Street Lights & Outages
CenterPoint Energy
Newsletter Publisher
Peel, Incwww.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Advertisingadvertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
PCMI/ Khara Mathews
Poison Control Center
Southwestern Bell - Repair 800-246-8464
- Billing 800-585-7928
Swimming Pool - Pay Phone
Swimming Pool - Lifeguard 281-517-0225
Trash – Waste Management
W. Harris County MUD #11
Willow Place Post Office
Willowbridge Websitewww.willowbridgehoa.com

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Block Captains Coordinator		
Pat Dennard - Willowbridge		
Liz Gammel - Stonebridge		
Welcoming Committee		
Lynette Rink	lynette@lrink.com	
Beautification Committee	,	
Thomas Heitzman		
Homeowners Association	281-870-0585x1350	
PCMI - Khara Mathews	kmathews@stes.com	
Clubhouse/Reservations		
Sherita Jeter	281-870-0585 ext 127	
Pool Parties		
Greater Houston Pools		
Pool Tags		
PCMI		
Marquee Coordinator		
Barbara Lallinger		
Newsletter Coordinator		
Kyle Survance	surou812@yahoo.com	
Security Coordinator		
Julie Dubros		
Website Committee		
Robert Logsdon		
Yard of the Month Committee		
Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Call		
Khara Mathews at PCMI	(281) 870-0585 x1350	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Heitzman	President
Julie Dubros	Vice President
Kyle Survance	Secretary
Fred Edler	Treasurer
Robert Logsdon	Director

HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners A	ssociation Inc PCMI	
Khara Mathews		
E-Mail	kmathews@stes.com	
Fax		
If you have any questions	or comments regarding the	
neighborhood please contact the numbers above.		

HOA MEETINGS

HOA meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse, unless otherwise noted on the marquee. Meetings are open to members and your attendance and participation are encouraged!

HARRIS COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE

To report street or curb damage, missing/damaged street signs and street flooding: (281) 463-6300

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WillowTalk

Curious?- (Continued from Cover Page)

Hey, come to the monthly HOA meetings and find out what's really going on in the neighboring communities as well as our own.

HOME SECURITY

Are people really leaving their doors unlocked and garage doors open? Is it a good idea to notify your neighbors and the Sheriff's Dept. if you are going to be away from home for a few days/weeks? Do you have your mail and/or newspapers held, or have a neighbor pick them up for you while you are gone? What about the occasional card or document left by unknown persons on your front door? Are those picked up? Is this a ploy by thieves to determine if anyone is at home? What about the knock on the door (day or night)? Should you open the door even if a person has on a type of uniform or clothing identity?

What time is the county curfew? Did you know there was a curfew? And, what's happening in the Sheriff's Department precinct-wide concerning neighborhood security?

Hey, come to the monthly HOA meetings and find out what the attending deputy has to say about these issues....and it's a great opportunity to ask him about other concerns.

PERSONAL SECURITY

If you are accosted in your driveway by robbers/thugs, what



is your best course of action? Which shopping centers near our neighborhood are under police surveillance? Which ones are not? Which ones are having recurring robberies or muggings? How many women attended the rape prevention and self-defense program last month? When is the next one?

Okay---you get the point. No more questions. A large portion of our annual HOA dues is spent on security, so come to the HOA meetings and find out how all the monies are being spent---not just the security portion. The HOA Board dedicates a portion of the meeting to community input. Personally, I rarely have any input, but I do get my questions answered if I have any....and it is so convenient to have the board meetings in our clubhouse where all the Board's constituents can attend at their leisure.

I have volunteered with Peggy Holloway to be a Block Captain for Glasscock Lane. If you live on our street and will drop me a line with your name and email address, I will endeavor to keep you informed of the "goings on" concerning security in our neighborhood. My email address is wegriffin8642@gmail.com.

If you don't have email or other computer access and just want to be kept informed the old fashioned way, stop by the house and let me know. For those of you living on other streets in our neighborhood, contact your Block Captain(s)----they are just as anxious to keep you informed.



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Jan

Janies Rummel Medical Spa Marketing Manager

Brandi Valenzuela, PA-C

Skin Care Analysis and Consultation

Courtney Snook Medical Spa Marketing Liason

1960 Fam Practice Huong Le, MD Medical Spa Director 1960 Family Practice

Diana Malone, MD

1960 Family Practice

REMOVE UNSIGHTLY VEINS Laser Vein Removal, Vein Ablation, Sclerotherapy

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Phu Do, M.D. Board Certified Surgeon

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OSMETIC & WEL

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Parking Violations & Texas State Laws

If you have received an orange flyer on your windshield of your vehicle, here is why; the state law prohibits the following:

- Blocking driveways
- Parking too close to intersections
- · Parking too close to corners
- Blocking fire hydrants
- Parking in fire lanes

BLOCKING SIDEWALKS

If a vehicle is parked blocking a sidewalk, it becomes very difficult for pedestrians, bicycles, children, strollers and wheelchairs to pass safely. Blocking the sidewalk can result in forcing these people to enter into the street causing unsafe conditions.

BLOCKING DRIVEWAYS

When a vehicle is parked blocking a driveway, it creates an inconvenience for the homeowners attempting to leave, or enter his/her driveway.

48-HOUR PARKING

No vehicle can be parked on any residential street for more than 48 consecutive hours.

PARKING TOO CLOSE TO AN INTERSECTION

OR CROSSWALK

Vehicles may not be parked within 30 feet of a stop sign or within 20 feet of a crosswalk.

BLOCKING A FIRE HYDRANT

This is one of the most common violations is when a vehicle is parked blocking a fire hydrant, or fire lane. This can create problems for emergency vehicles and hinders their ability to do their job effectively. No vehicles may be parked within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.

PARKING NEXT TO CURBS AND ONCOMING TRAFFIC

Vehicles cannot be more than 18" away from the curb and must be parallel to curb - the vehicle cannot park with the front or rear of the vehicle pointing to the curb (cul-de- sacs). The vehicle must be parked in the same direction as the traffic flow.

Are You Ready? Submitted by Barbara Lallinger

Are you ready for the next storm/hurricane? What you should know/do to be prepared is in printed form and available through the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness at www.readyhoustontx.gov and www.hcoem.org.

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1960 Family Practice

837 FM 1960 West Ste 105 Houston, Texas 77090 (Right behind Starbucks @ Red Oak) (281) 586-3888

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290 LOCATION:

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Saturday 9am-12pm

meet our team

Huong T Le, MD Quoc Le, MD Alex Nguyen, MD Blandina Sison, MD Marian Allan, MD Anthony Yee-Young, MD Diana Malone, MD Shital Patel, MD Heidi Nashed-Guirgis, MD Luz Marquez, MD Jennifer Dong, MD Haley Nguyen, MD Tami Berckenhoff, PA-C Brandi Valenzuela, PA-C

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Our doctors are board certified in Family Practice, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. We have experience of 20+ years in the medical field. We look forward to providing our patents with excellent services at our new location as well as maintaining our current care in the 1960 area. For those patients living in the 290 area, we encourage you to schedule appointments at our second location.

Because sickness doesn't revolve around a Monday-Friday 8-5 schedule, we are offer Urgent Care for your convenience. Our 1960 location has extended hours with evenings and weekends available. The 290 location offers Saturday hours from 9am-12pm.

Call today to schedule your appointment. 281-586-3888

Flu



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NOT AVAILABLE ON-LINE

To Submit Articles:

E-Mail articles and photos to the following address: <u>articles@</u> <u>PEELinc.com</u>. Articles must be received by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. Please specify on the article that it is to be published in the **Willow Talk**. Accurate and beneficial community information will be posted at the board of director's discretion.



Willowbridge/Stonebridge Welcoming Committee

The Homeowner's Association is in need of volunteers to re-form & chair a Willowbridge/Stonebridge "Welcoming Committee".

The HOA Board is committed to supporting a "Welcoming Committee" with assistance and an annual budget.

The Committee will greet new arrivals into our neighborhood and supply them with information regarding our facilities, social events, approval process for physical changes to the appearance of their property, Security and Security alerts. The Committee will also present the new homeowners with a small gift from the HOA.

We need your help to keep Willowbridge a wonderful place to live.

Anyone wishing to Chair or serve on the "Welcoming Committee" please call Fred Edler @ 832-237-2319.



Don't want to wait for the mail? View the current issue of the WillowTalk Newsletter on the 1st day of each month at www.PEELinc.com



WillowTalk

D-R-O-U-G-H-T or D-R-O-U-G-T-H??

Submitted by Barbara Lallinger

Webster's says you can spell it either way (and spell check evidently agrees). No matter which way you spell **DO:** Conserve Water it...it still means the same: LONG CONTINUED • Water lawns late at night or early in the morning. **DRY WEATHER!**

At this time we have not been forced into water rationing. Our MUD has been monitoring water usage on a daily basis and its effect on needs of the community (such as having enough to fight a fire). • Pay attention to your water bill. If it is increasing Many neighborhoods around us are asking residents to conserve water on a voluntary basis. This is a good idea for all of us. Some ways to do this include:

DON'T: Waste Water

- Water lawns every day if possible.
- Water lawns, wash cars, bathe your dog outside, etc during the hottest part of the day (you will probably lose 50% to evaporation).
- Forget to give your sprinklers a break (turn them off when we do get rain).
- Shower only as long as really needed.
- Leave the faucet running while brushing your teeth

and/or shaving.

- Check for leaks in toilets*, faucets, water lines and sprinkler systems (it is amazing how much water a leaky faucet or toilet can use in a very short time!).
- and shouldn't be, then you possibly have a water leak.
- Report community water leaks immediately to West Harris County MUD #11 at (281) 807-9500.
- To determine if the toilet is leaking, put enough food coloring in the tank to change the color of the water (if you are using a bowl sanitizer be sure to use a different color). Let it set overnight, without flushing. If the water in the bowl has changed color in the morning, your tank is leaking and wasting water. Adjusting the lift chain or replacing the flapper will usually solve the problem.



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TALKING TRASH

Submitted by Barbara Lallinger

Have you ever wondered how long it takes trash to die (decompose) in landfills? Below are several non-food examples. Many of these items are recyclable, keeping them out of the landfills and better yet, they will be reincarnated into new products!

Paper:	2–5 mos
Filter Cigarettes:	10 – 12 yrs
Milk Cartons:	5 yrs
Plastic Bags:	10 – 20 yrs
Leather Shoes:	24-40 yrs
Plastic Containers:	50 – 80 Yrs
Disposable Diapers:	75 Yrs
Tin Cans:	100 Yrs
Aluminum Cans:	200 – 500 Yrs

STYROFOAM: NEVER!!!

HAVE YOU HEARD?

- 1. San Francisco, Ca. passed a law last month requiring mandatory composting. Residents will be required to have three color coded trash bins: one each for trash and recycling and a new one for compost. They have also banned the use of plastic bags at supermarkets.
- 2. San Diego, Ca. and Pittsburgh, Pa. require residents to **recycle yard waste**.
- 3. Seattle, Wa. requires households to put food scraps in the city's compost bin or to have their own composting system.
- 4. Many household cleaners contain hazardous household waste (HHW) that end up in our waterways. You can download envir-mentally friendly recipes for glass and oven cleaners (provided by the Harris County Watershed Protection Group), and save money too! Go to: www.CleanWaterways.org download section.



<u>WillowTalk</u>





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