

## THE WHEELS ON THE BUS GO ROUND & ROUND... ROUND & ROUND

(But NOT in Willowbridge or Stonebridge) By: Barbara Lallinger

Many of you are probably cognizant of the recent effort of Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District (CFISD) to revoke the Homestead Exemption on our property tax this year due to a necessary reduction of their budget. Fortunately, that proposal did not pass.

Unfortunately, the district finds the 2009-2010 budget with a \$14 million deficit. In the past, CFISD provided bus service to students even if they lived next door to a school campus. This year several services previously provided by the district will be reduced or eliminated, most notable, bus service to students whom

the state does not provide funding to the district. In general, students that live less than two miles from their assigned schools are ineligible to ride the bus. This also applies to students cared for by state-recognized child care providers and grandparents located within two miles of the student's assigned campus.

There are two exceptions to the two mile rule. Students residing within two miles of their assigned schools may have transportation services provided if they meet either of these conditions:

- 1. They must cross or walk along a hazardous roadway as defined in the district's hazardous declaration.
- 2. They receive special education services and transportation is required.

Last year the state only reimbursed the district \$6.4 million of approximately \$32 million spent to transport students. In the past, the district has been able to absorb transportation costs at the local level. However, CFISD can no longer fund services for which it receives no reimbursement. Had the proposal to revoke the Homestead Exception been passed, it would have helped cover this deficit.

Other transportation services previously provided are also affected.

SCHOOL BUS

More info has been posted on the district's website: **cfisd.net/dept2/transp/services. htm** including answers to frequently asked questions, maps and a helpline at (281) 955-4010.

In his Message from the Superintendent, David Anthony, Ed.D. stated that the district regrets the need for this reduction in service as well as other service reductions and budget cuts that are being made, but financial conditions require that these actions be taken.

**Residents without students may ask** how this affects/concerns them. First and foremost, the issue faced by each and every one of us is

SAFETY FOR EVERYONE .... walkers, car riders, residents and visitors. Traffic congestion is a given along Willowbridge Park Blvd., Wheatland Dr., and the streets surrounding Gleason Elementary and Cook Middle School. It was already an issue at Gleason with the car rider lane when we had bus service (even worse before the signal lights were installed). Wheatland Dr. is wide enough to sustain double lanes of traffic (one entering the drop off area, the other passing), not so for Willowbridge Park Blvd. (WBPB). At Cook, drivers must be cognizant of the fact that many parents may park on the street and will have to watch for car doors being opened into traffic and there will be car riders turning right and left into the drop off area. At Gleason, this can also be an issue, but much more of a problem as WBPB is not designed for double lanes of traffic. It even appears to be more narrow between Bexar Dr. and the car rider entrance on the East side of the school. Contributing (but done for safety issues) to these problems, **No Parking** is allowed on the west side of WBPB from West Rd. to the first address (9414 WBPB), including along the boundary of the soccer field. This presents several problems including, but not limited to, ingress and egress to the neighborhood

(Continued on Page 3)

# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

All Emergencies
Harris County Sheriff
Harris County Animal Control
Cy-Fair Hospital
CenterPoint - Street Lights & Outages713-207-2222
CenterPoint Energy
Newsletter Publisher
Peel, Incwww.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Advertisingadvertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
PCMI/ Khara Mathews 281-870-0585x1350
Poison Control Center 800-764-7661
Southwestern Bell - Repair 800-246-8464
- Billing
Swimming Pool - Pay Phone
Swimming Pool - Lifeguard 281-517-0225
Trash – Waste Management
Vacation Watch - Harris County District 5 281-290-2100
W. Harris County MUD #11
Willow Place Post Office
Willowbridge Websitewww.willowbridgehoa.com

# **ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY**

Block Captains Coordinator

Pat Dennard - Willowbridgepdennard@gmail.com
Liz Gammel - Stonebridgelizgammell@yahoo.com
Welcoming Committee
Lynette Rinklynette@lrink.com
Beautification Committee
Thomas Heitzman
Homeowners Association
PCMI - Khara Mathewskmathews@stes.com
Clubhouse/Reservations
Sherita Jeter
Pool Parties
Greater Houston Pools713-771-7665
Pool Tags
PCMI
Marquee Coordinator
Barbara Lallinger
Newsletter Coordinator
Kyle Survancesurou812@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**

Fom Heitzman	President
lulie Dubros	Vice President
Kyle Survance	Secretary
Fred Edler	Treasurer
Robert Logsdon	Director

## HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners As	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

### The Wheels on the Bus - (Continued from Cover Page)

is limited during the times that students are being dropped off or picked up. Also, emergency vehicles may not have enough room to go between the lanes of traffic. There are fire hydrants located near the small landscape bridge and between the school's entrance and exit drives on the East side of WBPB. **Remember...it is illegal to park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant and within 30 feet of a stop sign or 20 feet of a crosswalk!!!** 

I spoke with Sandra McNeely, Principal of Gleason on August 5th and asked if she had any insight at that time for solutions to the anticipated traffic congestion. She noted that administration is exploring several options to alleviate the problems, but no definite decisions had been made at that time. Parents with children will be notified of the process to be followed before school starts on August 24th. Other residents may access the information on the district's website at: **cfisd.net** Click on **Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, then News and Media, then Key Communicator Letters, and then Archives (2009-10)**. Ms. McNeely stressed that one of the most important aspects for this transition to be successful will require **PATIENCE** on everyone's part. She **invites and welcomes** any constructive suggestions and/or comments and may be contacted at: sandra.mcneely@cfisd.net. And, she asked me to let everyone know that Gleason is now rated **EXEMPLARY**!

## National Night Out -October 6, 2006

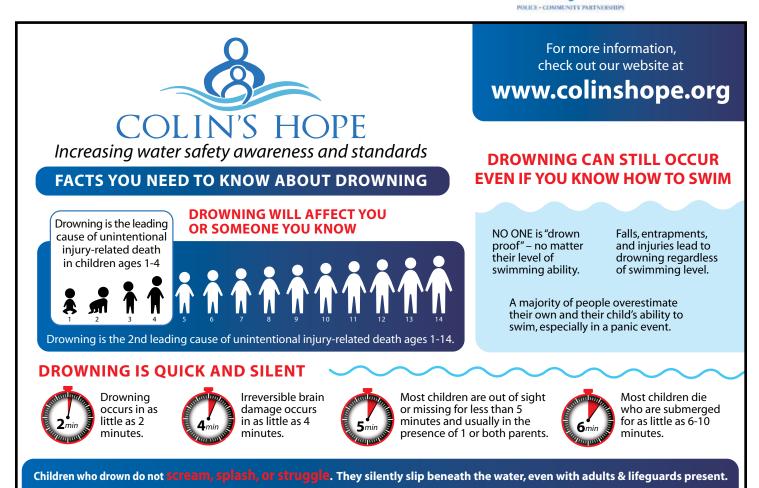
Submitted by Julie Dubros - Willowbridge Security Coordinator

'National Night Out' is a great opportunity for citizens, law enforcement and other public safety officials to join forces. Events are planned to promote crime prevention and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen the police - community partnership. We encourage neighborhoods to come together and send the message that we are all working together to prevent crime and keep our neighborhoods safe. On October 6, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., residents are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, EMS, and firefighters. Officers will be out in neighborhoods attending the National Night Out Festival from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Willowbridge Club house. Block Captains will host block parties from 7:30-9:00 pm. Look for more details to come. For more 2009 information about our crime watch program,

please email at martin@ com.



Julie Dubros juliedubros.



# <u>Willowbridge - Stonebridge</u>

# Burglary Prevention Tips Submitted by Julie Dubros - Willowbridge Security Coordinator

Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Make the burglar's work risky and difficult, and you stand a good chance of stopping them before they get in. By following these simple steps, you can reduce the possibility that your home will be targeted.

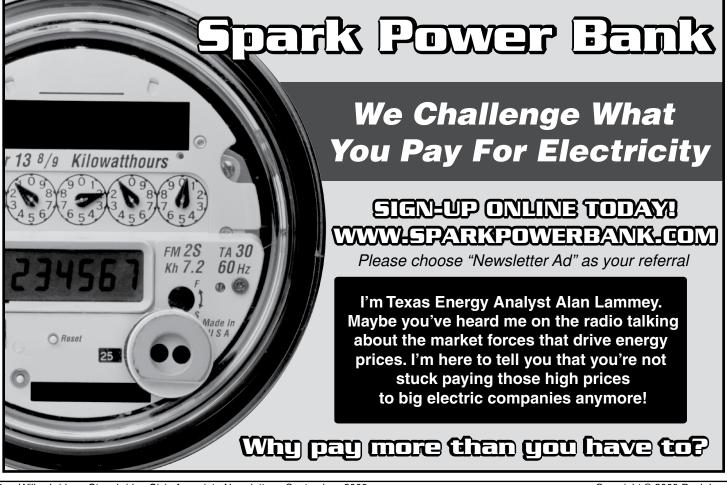
#### DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Always lock your doors and windows even when leaving for "just a minute".
- All exterior doors should be solid core or of metal construction.
- All entry doors should be equipped with a good quality deadbolt lock having a minimum of a one inch throw.
- A good quality double cylinder deadbolt lock should be used if there is glass within 40 inches of the lock.
- If using a double cylinder deadbolt lock, make sure a key is readily accessible in case of an emergency.
- Use a heavy duty strike plate secured with number 12 gauge threeinch wood screws.
- Install a peephole with at least a 180-degree viewing area. Never open the door without knowing who is there.
- Secure any sliding glass doors with an anti-lifting device and a secondary locking device.
- · Windows have latches and not locks, therefore, install secondary locking devices on all windows.

#### EXTERIOR AND LANDSCAPE

- Install lights in areas around doors, walkways, and driveways.
- Locate outside lights high and out of reach.
- Use inexpensive timers or photo electric cells to automatically turn the lights on and off at dusk and dawn.
- Trim shrubbery and trees so doors and windows are visible from the street.
- If there is a second floor, prune the trees so that a thief cannot use them to reach a second floor window.
- To discourage an intruder, plant thorny plants along fences and near windows.
- Do not leave ladders or tools outside, they can assist a person in gaining entry.
- · Gates on fenced yards should be locked with good quality padlocks.
- Install large reflective numbers (minimum 3 inches) on your house so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- Report street light outages ASAP. (www.centerpointenergy.com/ outage)

(Continued on Page 5)



### **Burglary Prevention Tips -** (Continued from Page 4)

### ALARM SYSTEMS

- Choose a reputable, well established company.
- Learn how to use your alarm system properly to reduce false alarms.
- Do not write your alarm code/password on or near the alarm keypad.
- Put a warning sign on windows and entrances.
- Make sure your alarm call back list is always up to date.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Acknowledge all callers through locked doors.
- Keep doors, windows and garage doors closed and locked even when at home.
- Before moving into a new house, re-key or change the locks on all exterior doors, also change the code to your garage door opener.
- Draw all curtains or shades at night to prevent viewing from the street.
- Never leave a house key in an obvious place such as under plants or a doormat. (These are the first places a burglar will look)
- Keep a current inventory of all your valuables. Include photos or video, descriptions, and serial numbers of all electronic equipment.
- Engrave valuables with your Texas driver's license number (preceded



by the letters "TX"). In the event your home is burglarized, this will help police identify the property if it is recovered.

- Secure cash and jewelry in bonded storage.
- If you come home and see a broken window or door that's been left open, don't go in. Confronting a burglar can be dangerous. Phone the Sheriff's department immediately from a neighbor's house or another location.
- When traveling, keep your home looking lived-in by having grass cut, mail and newspapers picked up, and lights turned on and off.
- Also when traveling, mail or fax a Vacation Watch form to the Harris County Sheriff's Department. (Download a copy from the Willowbridge Web-site.)

### GETTING INVOLVED

- Know who belongs in your neighborhood. Report suspicious persons, vehicles or activity to the Sheriff's Department immediately (713)221-6000. Be alert in protecting not only your home but your neighbors as well.
- Don't tell a stranger that your neighbor is not at home or volunteer any personal information about your neighbor.
- Never leave notes on your door that reveal that your home is not occupied.



bashanspainting@earthlink.net

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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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### office hours

Mon-Tues 8am-8pm Wed,Thurs,Fri 8am-5pm **Saturday 8am-1pm** Sunday Noon-3pm

### 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 Diana Malone, MD Diana Malone, MD Shital Patel, MD Luz Marquez, MD Jennifer Dong, MD Haley Nguyen, MD Tami Berckenhoff, PA-C Brandi Valenzuela, PA-C

Sydney Payne, 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 patients 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 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.

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### WANNA DANCE?

By: Barbara Lallinger

Can you do the Texas Two Step? What about the electric slide? Or maybe you're into the newest dance craze...the West Road Shuffle. What? You haven't heard of this one?

The West Road Shuffle is what many of the Willowbridge/ Stonebridge residents are doing at various times of the day to avoid waiting a long time (many times unnecessarily) for the signal to turn green for a left turn onto Willowbridge Park Blvd. from West Road or waiting through 2 to 3 light cycles in a long line, encroaching on the regular left hand lane of traffic going west on West Road. They go down to the next turn around and U-Turn back east on West Road, hoping to avoid the light.

If you're tired of doing this dance, please call Harris County Traffic and Transportation Group at (713) 881-3210 (a hotline monitored 24 hours a day) and request that the signal be reconfigured to allow for a protected left turn and also be able to turn left after yielding to oncoming traffic.

Also, several residents have approached me concerning the danger of U-Turns at this same signal. If this is something that you would like to see made illegal...talk to this same group.

## CORRECTION

Page 5 of the July issue of Willow Talk stated that MUD 10 owned the pond. It is owned by both MUD's 11 & 10.



# <u>WillowTalk</u>

# NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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



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# Willowbridge - Stonebridge Community Tennis

# **Club News!**

First, I would like to thank all of the players that have joined. Thank you for participation! Also, check out the tennis board for new player information and be on the look out for a Friday Mixer. Look forward to playing with you soon.

Second, I would like to invite more of our community out to play. The club is growing and we are getting to know each other and having a great time. Our current players include all ages and all levels. Tennis is a game that you can play at all ages and is a sport you can play for life. If you are looking for a new way to get in shape, you should try tennis. It offers cardio, strength, and overall health improvement.

Here are some Tennis Basics: Tennis is played between two players or teams. Each "set" is defined as playing a single period until there is a winner usually first to six games, but the margin of victory must be at least two games. Tennis can be played in the following ways: Singles - Between two individual players. Doubles - Between four players, two on each side. One player starts each game as the server, and the opposing player is the receiver. The first player(s) to take four points wins the game, but the margin of victory must be at least two points. Scoring follows the sequence, Love-Fifteen-Thirty-Forty-Game. Love means zero. You may have heard the saying, "In Tennis, Love means nothing." But as you play, you grow to love the game and it is exciting. So come out and join us. Contact us at jrey664165@aol.com or 281-807-1561. See you soon.

## **Business Classified**

THERE IS CASH IN YOUR CLOSETS! Upscale family consignment event in NW Houston community this FALL! Let us help you stretch your budget! Consign, Shop, Volunteer! Come join the FUN! Great resource for MOMS-TO-BE!! http://nwhouston.rhealana.com or tammy@rhealana.com

## **Are You Guilty?**

Submitted by: Barbara Lallinger

Are you guilty of putting anything other than rainwater down our storm drains? Probably....and if not you directly, maybe indirectly via your lawn maintenance company or guests.

Storm drains are just for rainwater. That's because the water that goes down them is not treated—it ultimately goes to Galveston Bay and carries our pollution with it, contaminating all of our waterways in the process. Please note that storm drains are not:

Garbage Cans:	Don't toss your food wrappers, cups, bottles, cans, cigarette/cigar butts, or any other trash down them.
Paint Disposals:	Paint and storm water don't mix, so don't throw your leftovers down the drain. While you can throw cans of dried up latex paint in the trash, oil based paint should be taken to a hazardous waste disposal site.
Doggie Doo:	Doggie Doo is a DON'T. Curb the urge to put you pet's droppings down the drain. Instead, wrap them properly and toss them in the trash.
Just Say No to Grass:	Don't blow your yard clippings or leaves down the drain, and don't toss tree limbs there. Bag your yard waste properly and put it out for trash pickup or use the clippings as a natural compost.
Your Personal Drain:	NOT! That means don't pour grease, motor oil or kitchen waste down the drain. Also be careful not to over fertilize your lawn, because the fertilizer can run off into the drain, ending up in the waterways.



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Brandi Valenzuela, PA-C

Practice

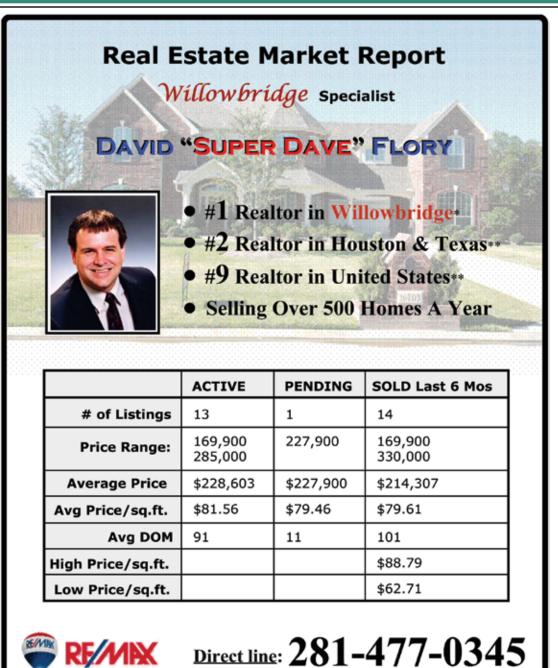
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