

Volume 14 November 2009 No. 11

New Welcoming Committee

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming the new members of the Willowbridge 'Welcoming Committee'.

Gracie Galvan, Chairperson-281-732-0009 Kathleen A. Meyer-281-469-7194 Rosita Pasquet- 281-955-2331 Betty Petty- 713-628-0398 Maria Pearce, Auxiliary member-832-243-0972

Our "Welcoming Committee" has come and gone over the years to due family commitments and moves; however we have found a group of highly motivated volunteers to rejuvenate the Welcoming Committee.

We held our first meeting Monday, October 5, 2010 and elected a Chairperson.

The committee has formulated the information new residents will receive with direction from the HOA Board. The Committee has also made a decision, with HOA Board approval, to present a small food "basket" to each new home owner. Credit for the unique design and impressive appearance goes to Gracie Galvan along with input from the rest of the Committee.

Willowbridge/Stonebridge has about 35 new move in's per year. The job of the 'Welcoming Committee" will be to visit each of those new owners, update them on what a GREAT neighborhood Willowbridge is, present them with a small gift and review the important information of our HOA and neighborhood along with explaining the ARC Guidelines.

Please consider joining these outstanding volunteers and serving with them on the Welcoming committee. We would like to build the Committee up to at least 8 members. For more information please call Gracie Galvin.

Congratulations and a very big THANK YOU to the Committee members!

NNO PICTURES





(More Pics on Page 8)

Willowbridge - Stonebridge

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

All Emergencies
Harris County Sheriff713-221-6000
Harris County Animal Control281-999-3191
Cy-Fair Hospital
CenterPoint - Street Lights & Outages 713-207-2222
CenterPoint Energy713-659-2111
Newsletter Publisher
Peel, Incwww.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Advertisingadvertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
PCMI/ Khara Mathews281-870-0585x1350
Poison Control Center
Southwestern Bell - Repair800-246-8464
- Billing800-585-7928
Swimming Pool - Pay Phone
Swimming Pool - Lifeguard281-517-0225
Trash – Waste Management713-686-6666
Vacation Watch - Harris County District 5 281-290-2100
W. Harris County MUD #11281-807-9500
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
Gracie Galvan
Beautification Committee
Thomas Heitzman
Homeowners Association
PCMI - Khara Mathewskmathews@stes.com
Clubhouse/Reservations
Sherita Jeter
Pool Parties
Greater Houston Pools713-771-7665
Pool Tags
PCMI281- 870 - 0585
Marquee Coordinator
Barbara Lallinger281-890-8464
Newsletter Coordinator
Kyle Survancesurou812@yahoo.com
Security Coordinator
Julie Dubros
Website Coordinator
Pat Dennardpdennard@gmail.com
Yard of the Month Committee
Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Call
Khara Mathews at PCMI(281) 870-0585 x1350
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Julie DubrosVice	President
Kyle Survance	
Fred Edler	Treasurer
Robert Logsdon	Director

HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners Asso	ociation Inc PCMI
Khara Mathews	281-870-0585x1350
E-Mail	kmathews@stes.com
Fax	281-870-9170
If you have any questions of	r comments regarding the
neighborhood please conta	act 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) 353-8424 or www.hcp4.net.

If a resident wants to request a new sign or replace a damaged one, they have to go online and fill out a request.

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.



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Willowbridge/Stonebridge Welcoming Committee

Hi Neighbors,

Because it is important to help new residents feel welcomed when they move into this great sub-division, and how valuable they are to all of us, the board thought that it was time to re-organize the welcoming committee. On October 5, 2009, Fred Edler met with several volunteers to begin the process. Gracie Galvan was voted chairman of the committee. Other volunteers included, Laveren Barrow 281-469-3602, Megan Chrostowski – 832-688-9978, Mary Harvey – 281-955-2289, Alice Marquez – 281-890-6008, Kathy Mears 281-970-0088, Kathleen Meyer – 281-469-7194, Rosita Pasquet – 281-955-2331, Maria Pearce 832-243-0972 and Betty Petty – 713-628-0398

The welcome gift was planned and Fred discussed the funding for the activity. Gracie will have the gifts available when new residents arrive. We will be notified by the HOA of the new arrivals. Also if you feel we have missed someone please call us and we will make sure we get a member of the welcoming committee to their home.

If you have questions or would like to contact us please feel free to do so!

Gracie Galvan at galvangracie@hotmail.com Kathie Meyer at KAMeyer@rocketmail.com

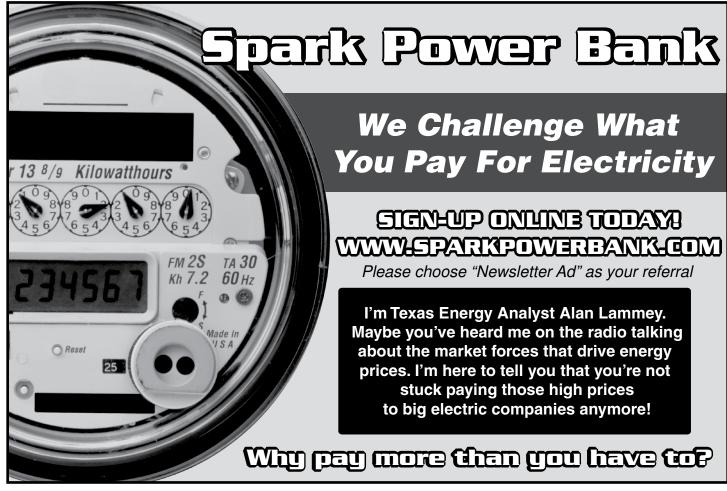
Sincerely,
Your Welcoming Committee

Personal Classified

NEEDED: Adoption or foster home for a sweet, quiet dog. Young, neutered male, black and tan with white markings (looks like a cattle dog), weighing about 20 pounds. He is housebroken and crate trained. Call Shannon at (832) 723-6386.

Advertising Info

Please support the businesses that advertise in the WillowTalk. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Willowbridge residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the WillowTalk by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@peelinc. com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.



Willowbridge - Stonebridge

Is There a Gangsta in Your Home? Part I - By Fred Edler

Recently I attended a presentation on "GANGS" presented by Mike Knox. Mike is a veteran of the Houston Police Department and was the creator of HPD's Westside Command Divisional Gang Unit. Mike has appeared on Nightline, CNN, and profiled in Newsday, NEA Today and Woman's Day.

Over the next few months I'd like to share with you some information from Mike's presentation and award winning book, Gangsta in the House, Understanding Gang Culture.

Mike's book is available from Cutting Edge Communications, 713-465-6500 or iqknox@swbell.net or www.gangguy.com.

If you have child approaching Middle School Age, whether male or female, I highly recommend you purchase Mike's book.

If I receive a large positive response to this article I'll arrange a presentation by Mike at our clubhouse.

HERE ARE SOME FACTS:

- Gangs are no longer geographically limited to one area.
- Gangs are in "Good' neighborhoods too! Surprising but TRUE!
- Just in Channelview there are 720 identified Gang members.
- Female Gangs or Gang auxiliaries are growing faster than ever.

MIKE TELLS US THAT GANG MEMBERS WANT 3 THINGS:

- Security
- Fellowship
- Respect

Sound familiar? The majority of us want the very same things. However the problem with gang members is their idea of Security, Fellowship and Respect is different from ours.

To understand how a gang member thinks one must look at the world through his eyes.

Gang members want the same things we want out of life they just don't know how to achieve or get them.

We learn to succeed by practicing successful behavior in school and from at least one of our parents. As a child grows and achieves some measure of success in an area he begins to learn and understand the value of success and will normally grow into a respected adult by his peers.

Gang members want success too but have trouble finding it in normal places, so they depend on fear and the intimidation of the

(Continued on Page 5)



Gangsta - (Continued from Page 4)

rest of us for "Respect". They mistake "fear" for "respect." The more violent they become the more they are feared/respected. So bad, violent behavior becomes good for a Gang member.

Gang members don't feel good about themselves and have trouble with self esteem. The human mind will not allow us to tolerate repeated failure so repeated failure forces one to rationalize why they are failing. Therefore they must blame someone or something else. The "system is against me" mentality. "The rules of society are keeping me down". Therefore if I want to be successful I must be outside the system - I must make my own rules - a GANG!

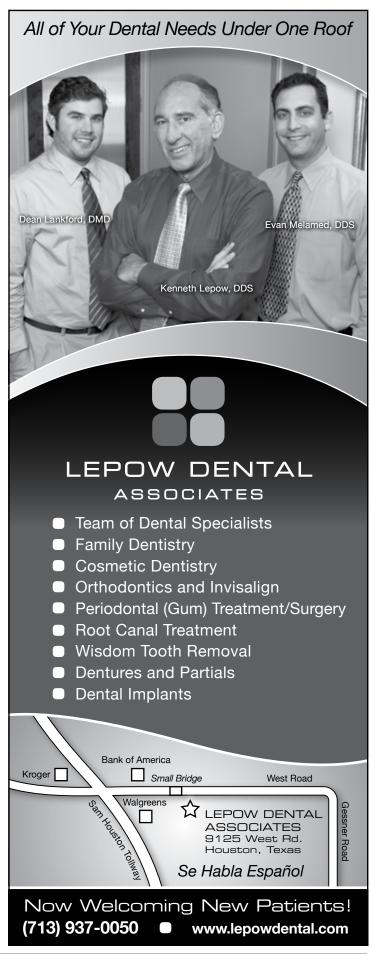
Many parents miss the signs of low self esteem. Low self esteem usually kicks in "big time" when a child enters middle school. Think about it a minute. In the last year at grade school the child is usually physically bigger, better informed and knows his way around the school. He is the big shot. When they enter middle school they are lost. They don't know the system or where their classrooms are located and are physically smaller than the upper classmen. This is when they are vulnerable.

The child notices that Gang members are feared and even looked up to-the fear/respect issue. The other students move out of their way. They notice the way the gang dresses-pants half falling off, baseball cap turned anyway but forward. The child thinks if I dress like that I'll be accepted. As he begins dressing like a gang member he sends a signal to the gang - "I want to be like you or one of you." The gang approaches the child. The child sees a way to become instantly accepted (and bury his low self esteem) and begins to "hang" with the Gang. When he's with the Gang people get out of his way. He learns their rules and street names. Someone picks on him and the Gang comes to his rescue. Security! Respect! Fellowship! All appear to be there for the prospective member.

The gang now approaches him and tells him he no longer has a choice but to join the gang. He knows too much about them. His choice is to die or join. The child joins.

To be continued

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Jennifer Dong, MD

Asma Ahmad, MD

Vu Anh Phung, MD

Annie Hoang, MD

Tami Berckenhoff, PA-C

Brandi Valenzuela, PA-C

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1960 Family Practice Is Pleased To Introduce **Our Newest Physicians**



Dr. Vu Phung joined 1960 Family Practice in July 2009. Dr. Phung graduated from Texas Tech University and is board certified in Family Medicine. He completed his residency in Family Practice and in pursuing his special interest; he completed his fellowship in Geriatric Medicine. Dr Phung welcomes patients of all ages to his practice.



Dr. Annie Hoang joined our practice in August of 2009. She graduated from Texas A & M University and finished her training in Family Practice at Texas Tech University. She is board certified in Family Medicine and has been providing comprehensive care for adults and children with compassion and kindness for the past 10 years. She welcomes all new patients to her practice.

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THE RECIPE BOX -**CRANBERRY PORK ROAST (Crock Pot)**

By: Laura Drake

- 1 boneless rolled pork loin roast (2 ½ to 3 lbs.)
- 1 16 oz. can jellied cranberry sauce 1 tsp. dry mustard
- ¼ tsp. ground cloves
- ½ c. sugar
- ½ c. cranberry juice
- 2 tbsp. cornstarch
- 2 tbsp. cold water

• Salt to taste

Place pork roast in a slow cooker (crock pot). In a medium bowl, mash cranberry sauce; stir in sugar, cranberry juice, mustard and cloves. Pour over meat. Cover and cook on low for 6 – 8 hours or until meat is tender. Remove roast and keep warm. Skim fat from juices; measure 2 cups, adding water if necessary, and pour into saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Combine the cornstarch and cold water to make a paste; stir in gravy. Cook and stir until thickened. Season with salt. Serve with sliced pork.

Yields 4 - 6 servings.



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THE SCHOOL ZONE

By: Barbara Lallinger

Last month's Willow Talk included an article by me titled: Fundraising Off To A Big Start! If you read the article, you possibly asked yourself what does this have to do with me and my home value, I don't have a child in the school district?

The schools in your neighborhood have a lot to do with your home value, specifically, the performance rating of those schools. In a recent survey of real estate professionals, it was determined that safety and security is the number one factor considered when someone is buying a new home and if they have children, guess what is rated number 2? You're right...the schools. With an elementary at the Willowbridge entrance to the subdivision and a middle school at the Wheatland entrance it goes without saying that there must be a lot of kids in the neighborhood (and of course in surrounding neighborhoods). If the schools aren't good, then you may have a hard time selling your

house when ready to do so.

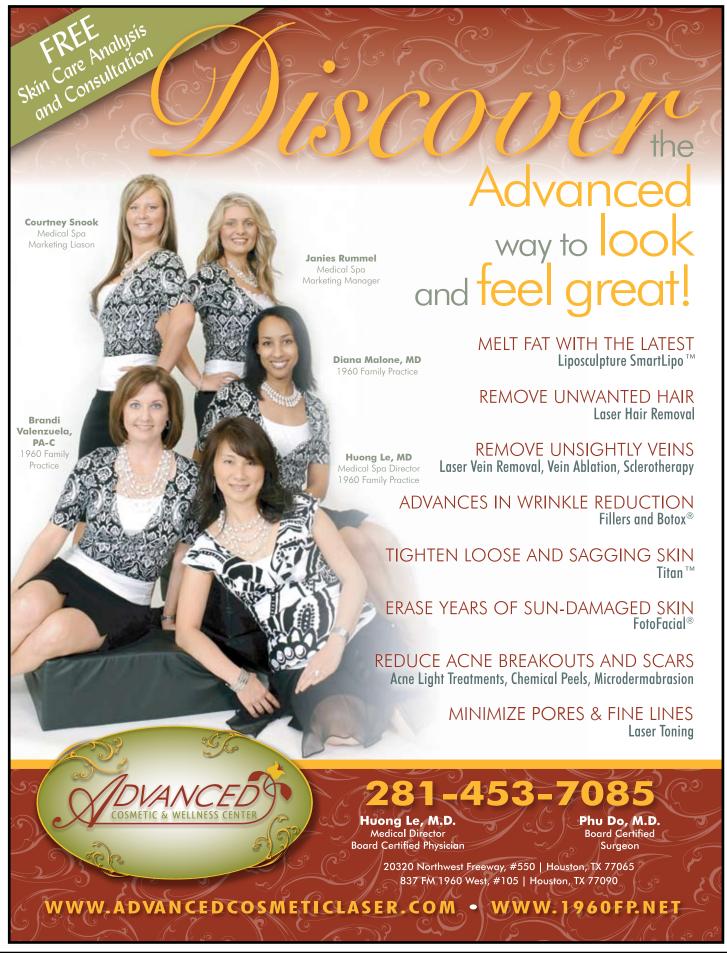
Today's economic times are tough on all of us. That's why the article said to please support the fundraising efforts as you can. During the current school year you will be asked over and over to support various fund raisers. Many campuses have a major fall and spring fundraiser and many others in between (especially elementary). You may be asked to support a car wash, a fun run, recycling drives, drive through dinners, dinner at a specific restaurant one night a month, rummage sales, carnivals, winter socials, etc.

Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District (CFISD) recently sent out a Key Communicator Letter: Budget Process for 2010-11. Even though we just started the 2009-10 year, the 2010-11 budget needs to be developed by February or March of 2010 to accomplish funding goals. CFISD Superintendent, David Anthony, Ed.D. said in the Key Communicator Letter that the

new funding system for public education, HB 3646 inadequately meets the financial needs of the district. And, since the financial impact of this bill was not known until after it was passed by the legislature on 6/1/09, the district was forced to identify \$14 million in reductions in the budget in a very short time period, between 6/2-25/09, (remember, one consideration was to do away with or reduce our homestead exemption?). The 2010-11 budget must be reduced by \$10 million. To accomplish this, the district faces a daunting task of identifying programs and services to eliminate (bus service for 2009-10 affecting our whole neighborhood). This is a HUGE challenge as this will be done on the heels of 2 consecutive years of budget reductions totaling \$41 million.

As a stakeholder in our schools (yes, you are), you have an important perspective. CFISD wants your input. Please go to their website at www.cfisd.net and submit it!





What's Your Favorite Restaurant?

By Fred & Lyn Edler

We were hoping for a larger response to our first article but we are going to give this one more try. Please send us that little gem of a restaurant or that "hole in the wall" that serves great food and we'll share it with the rest of Willowbridge/Stonebridge. Abbie & Rudolph Brothers responded with a recommendation. One of their favorites for Italian is Fratelli's located on Hwy 290 near 34th street. Abbie says Fratelli's is an excellent family owned Italian restaurant. Abbie also shares that the Brothers' favorite Hamburger place is "Beck's Prime". Not a bad choice. I really enjoy Beck's Chili Burger. While we have not completed our quest to find the "Best Hamburger in Houston" we are well on our way. Today we'll share with our current ranking and some of the highlights. The Burger Choices are listed in order of preference:

- 1. Tie-Goode Company Taqueria -Christian's
- 2. Langford Grocery
- 3. Mel's Country Café (in Tomball)

Honorable mention: -Beck's prime -Bellaire Burger -Bubba's (under the Westpark Expressway)

There are several Burger Places that are on our list but we have not visited yet. At the top of our list to visit is the Hub Cap Grill in downtown Houston. If you have been there let us know what you think of the burger. Here's why we like Goode Company Taqueria and Christian's: Goode Company Taqueria - The burgers are 1/3 pound, hand made and cooked to order. They have a slight crispiness to the exterior and the buns are light. You can "dress" your own burger yourself with everything from lettuce to salsa. The fries are hand cut and cooked twice. No matter how strict your diet, you must try the chocolate shake with cinnamon. Christian's is the kind of place you would be reluctant to walk into at night if you haven't been there before. Located off Washington and I-10, the burgers are huge, handmade, juicy and very good. Lyn & I usually split one and get 1 order of fries.

In closing we like to tell you about Mel's in Tomball. My hair cutter recommended Mel's for the burgers. They are good and very inexpensive. The basic burger is only \$2.95 and very filling. They also have a burger challenge. If you eat their 1.5 pound burger, you get your name on the wall of fame along with the length of time it took for you to complete your task. Mel's is a "country place". Good home type cooking with a few white table cloth type selections such as Grilled Catfish topped with crabmeat and shrimp. But the true Mel's is the kind of place you go to for rib sticking basic food. While we were there for our burger we observed several tables eating the fried catfish. So on our 2nd visit for lunch Lyn & I ordered the Fried Catfish Dinner which comes with 2 sides for \$10.95, another bargain. The fish was very nicely fried, light and delicate. The plate came with 5 large fillets and large side orders. We ate lunch and brought the rest of the dinner home. Very Good. We also observed a Banana Pudding dessert being delivered to a table it would serve at least 4. We spilt a peach cobbler. Please send us your Burger suggestions and your favorite places to eat whether they are simple little gems or white table cloth fine dining and we'll share with all. Send suggestions to fred.edler@sbcglobal.net.

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