



The School Zone

By: Barbara Lallinger

In case you missed it...the Houston Chronicle CyFair Neighborhood News section of the Sunday February 7 edition, front page read: CY-FAIR ISD MEETING IS MONDAY. No big deal so far, right? The body of the article goes on to read: The Cy-Fair school board will consider approving tax refunds of \$500 or greater during its Monday, Feb. 8 meeting in the board room of the district's Instructional Support Center, 10300 Jones Rd. For details, go to www.cfisd.net. If you went there, this issue (\$500) was listed as an agenda item. The plot thickens!

If you've been following the district's news either on-line or in these articles your first thought (like mine) was: What tax refund? How can they be considering a refund when we all know they need money? They are cutting expenses left and right (no bus service for Willowbridge and Stonebridge this year). They have already announced that the 2010-2011 budget due to be approved very soon is expected to incur at least a \$10 million shortfall that is a side effect of the inequitable way Texas state funding is calculated.

On March 9, I talked to Kelli Durham, Assistant Superintendant of Communications for CFISD and asked her what this "mysterious" tax refund was and how did the vote go. She said the article in the newspaper had really caused a lot of confusion and questions. Yes, it was on the agenda...as it is every year. However, it only pertains to tax overpayments in situations such as an individual and mortgage company both paying the taxes. It's not the district's money; therefore, it has to be given back to the rightful owners. It's just a formality that the board has to address and vote on each year.

So...if you saw the article and you're waiting for your refund...don't wait any longer. The check is not in the mail and it is not going to be in the mail unless your taxes were over or double paid. In the meantime, please continue paying your taxes and continue supporting the fund raisers for our local schools in any manner that you can.

P. S. \$\$\$ are nice but they also accept volunteers!!

KIRK ELEMENTARY TO

Host Book Fair Event
April 12 to 16, 2010

WHAT:

Kirk Elementary will host a Scholastic Book Fair on April 12, 2010 to April 16, 2010. The Book Fair will offer specially priced books and educational products, including new releases, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, adult books, and current bestsellers from more than 100 publishers. Families, teachers, and the community are invited to attend the Book Fair, featuring a fun theme: Book Fair Diner: All You Can Read!

On April 12, 2010 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the Book Fair will be having Family night. Please help support our school and join us for a sweet treat.

WHEN:

The Book Fair will be open daily from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, April 12, 2010 to April 16, 2010.

WHERE:

Kirk Elementary is located at 12421 Tanner Road, Houston, TX 77041.

MORE:

Book Fair customers may help the school build classroom libraries and improve children's reading skills by purchasing books through the Classroom Wish List and One for Books® programs.

Willowbridge - Stonebridge

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

All Emergencies.....911
Harris County Sheriff..... 713-221-6000
Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
Cy-Fair Hospital..... 281-890-4285
CenterPoint - Street Lights & Outages 713-207-2222
CenterPoint Energy..... 713-659-2111
Newsletter Publisher

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Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
PCMI/ Khara Mathews 281-870-0585x1350
Poison Control Center 800-764-7661
Southwestern Bell - Repair 800-246-8464
- Billing..... 800-585-7928
Swimming Pool - Pay Phone 281-469-9004
Swimming Pool - Lifeguard..... 281-517-0225
Trash - Waste Management..... 713-686-6666
Vacation Watch - Harris County District 5 281-290-2100
W. Harris County MUD #11 281-807-9500
Willow Place Post Office 281-890-2392
Willowbridge Website www.willowbridgehoa.com

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Block Captains Coordinator
Pat Dennard - Willowbridgepdennard@gmail.com
Liz Gammel - Stonebridgelizgammell@yahoo.com
Welcoming Committee
Gracie Galvan 281-732-0009
Beautification Committee
Thomas Heitzman 281-807-6937
Homeowners Association 281-870-0585x1350
PCMI - Khara Mathews kmathews@stes.com
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Sherita Jeter 281-870-0585 ext 127
Pool Parties
..... TBD
Pool Tags
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Marquee Coordinator
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Kyle Survanice surou812@yahoo.com
Security Coordinator
Julie Dubros..... 281-794-9032
Website Coordinator (was Committee)
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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners Association Inc. - PCMI
Khara Mathews..... 281-870-0585x1350
E-Mail kmathews@stes.com
Fax 281-870-9170
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!

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

The Welcoming Committee meetings are the last Monday
of each month.

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February HOA Meeting Highlights

- The HOA board members had only a few homeowners join them at the February HOA meeting which was held on the 25th. We'll blame it on the cold weather. The board continues to encourage everyone to come and participate in our HOA meetings every 4th Thursday of the month.
- Our Security Coordinator, Julie Dubros, reported that our subdivision will receive a fourth Sheriff's deputy in April. Our neighborhood continues to be relatively quiet regarding criminal activity.
- The ARC request form on the WHOA website will be revised to facilitate electronic data entry.
- Pool information will soon be mailed to homeowners. Also, board members are discussing ways to provide a dedicated swim lane for adults.
- Replacement of the clubhouse roof will begin in March. The majority of the costs will be covered by insurance.
- The board is looking for a volunteer to be the website administrator for the Willowbridge/Stonebridge website. Please contact Kyle Survance if you are interested.

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. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25th, 2010. Hope to see you there.

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11:00-12:00,
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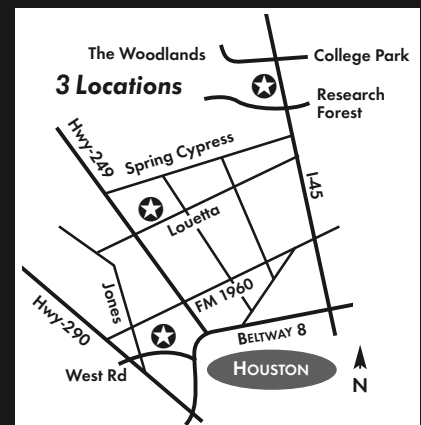


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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

TALKING TRASH

By: Barbara Lallinger

A GREAT BIG THANKS to everyone that paid attention and recycled soda cans, plastic water bottles, Capri Sun drink pouches, cardboard packaging and the plastic eggs (they reuse them each year) at the Spring Festival!!!

SIMPLE CHANGES (over a year can make a big impact)

IF YOU...

RECYCLE your Sunday paper every week

Imagine what recycling a weeks worth of newspapers does (the Houston Chronicle daily issue is not as large as it used to be, but still...every little bit counts! Also, if you deposit the newspaper in the recycle bins at our local schools, they receive cash for recycling. It's a double do gooder!

CUT one 20 mile car trip each week by completing as many errands at once, rather than making separate trips

RECYCLE a six pack of aluminum every week

CUT 5 minutes from your daily shower

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SAVE up to 9,000 gallons of water

FOR MORE IDEAS: Environmental Defense Fund, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and National Recycling Coalition

A Big Welcome

*To Our New
Home Owner!*

STONE PORCH - DESKING

Provided by the Welcome Committee

Car Show & Blood Drive

Please join us at Jersey Village Baptist Church on Saturday May 22nd from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for our 2nd annual car show and blood drive! Come out for a show and shine, and give back to the community by donating blood too!

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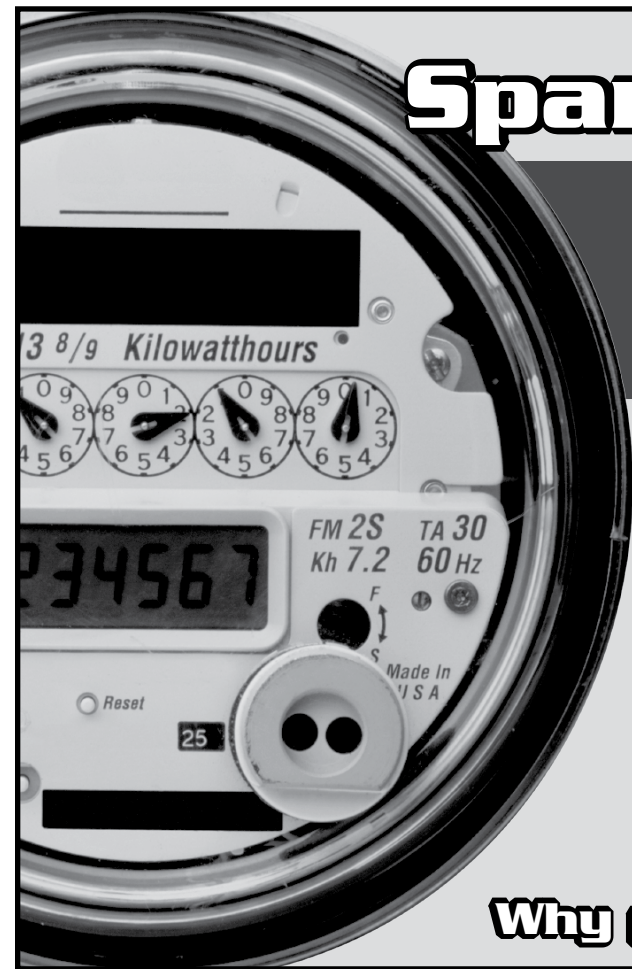
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Winchester Hurricanes

Swim Team Registration

Make a splash this summer! Register for the Winchester Hurricanes Swim Team on Saturday, March 27th, or Saturday, April 17th, at the Winchester Country Clubhouse at 9607 Rio Grande Road, from 10am to noon. Late registration will take place at our first practice on Monday, April 19th, at the Winchester Country Pool. You can fill out the registration forms ahead and bring them with you by visiting our website: www.winchesterhurricanes.com. We will have team swim suits available for purchase, so please bring your swimmers. The cost is \$85 each for the first 2 swimmers, \$50 for the 3rd swimmer, and \$40 for the 4th swimmer (credit card payments add \$5). A refundable volunteer deposit check is required at registration. A \$20 non-resident fee applies if outside of Willow Pointe/Winchester Country. Fees include a trophy, a team t-shirt, and the team party. Winchester Swim Team, Inc. serves over 200 neighborhood kids each year and is affiliated with the Northwest Aquatic League "NWAL". A big thank you goes to Winchester Country, Willow Pointe, and Winchester Trails for supporting our team with use of their facilities. This activity is not related to or sponsored by Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District.

Tennis

The birds are starting to chirp outside, you hear the kids' playing, and you feel that swing in your body and you know spring is here! So join us for some Tennis spring and get your body moving with some swing. Come play some games with your neighbors and have some fun. There are many ways to learn and improve with several opportunities to play, practice, or just watch. Watch the tennis bulletin board outside the pool pavilion for tennis lists or check out our HOA website: <http://willowbridgehoa.com> for member directory and calendar. Tennis is a great game to keep in shape and just have some laughs, so I highly encourage everyone to come out to play some tennis. If you would like to join us for some play, contact us at email: jrey664165@aol.com or phone 281-807-1561, Jessica Lefevre. We hope to see you out there and see if we can get you to swing dance.



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MEET ISIAIAH

(DOB: 8/1996)

Isaiah is a cute, slightly built 13 yr. old young man in search of his forever family. Isaiah is a polite, cooperative, and respectful young man. He plays the baritone in the school band and loves to collect pencils and pens. Isaiah has a genetic bone disorder which causes excess bone growths. He must undergo periodic examinations and often surgeries to remove these growths. Isaiah is not limited in any physical way by this condition. He is ambulatory and has no restrictions physically. Isaiah would do well in any permanent environment, but would like a family that allows him to stay in contact with his younger brother. For more information on Isaiah contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-687-3208 / info@adopttexas.org



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

By: Barbara Lallinger

Happy 1st Birthday to Wheatland Park. It was officially dedicated in March 2009. It, like our yards, suffered from all of the freezing weather. Carey Johnson, President of West Harris County MUD #11 reports that dead bushes, trees, etc. will probably be replaced in 2 – 4 weeks (as soon as it is safe to).

Harris County Flood Control continues its work on the by-pass channels between Jersey Village, Willowbridge and Westbridge (hard to miss if you live right on one of the channels). This is a 300 working day project, and they will not give a completion date at this time; however, it should be nearing completion. Included in the project is rerouting lots of pipes and the extension of the treatment plant. Then maybe we can have some trees and grass again.

THE RECIPE BOX

******Correction to Field Greens, Crumbled Blue Cheese and Spicy Pecans (March Issue). The 4th ingredient listed under Vinaigrette should have read: 2/3 c. distilled white vinegar.***

Crawfish Enchiladas

By: *Daphne Culpepper*

- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 stick butter
- 2 bags (8 oz. each) Monterrey Jack/Colby cheese (mixed) or 1 (8 oz.) bag of each
- flour tortillas
- 1 lb. crawfish
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can diced Rotel tomatoes
- salt, pepper & Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning to taste

Saute vegetable in butter. Add crawfish, soups, Rotel, 1 ½ bags cheeses and seasonings. Simmer 10-15 minutes. Spray casserole dish with Pam. Fill the tortillas with the mixture, roll up and place in casserole dish. Pour the remaining mixture over the tortillas. Sprinkle the remaining cheese over the top of the casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 – 25 minutes.

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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

8		3				9		
								1
	9	5						6
			6		2			
								7
	1	4	9					8
	4						9	
		1			7	2		3
6	7		3					

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Put Your Tax Refund to Work

It's Tax Refund Season again. This year, if you're going to get a check from your Uncle Sam, why not put it to work to help you meet your financial goals?

Last year, the average tax refund was more than \$2,700, according to the IRS. The size of your refund, or whether you will get one at all, depends on your individual circumstances. But if you are going to get a refund, plan ahead for what you'll do with it. Here are a few possibilities:

- **PAY DOWN SOME DEBTS.** In these difficult economic times, you may be carrying a higher debt load than usual. If so, you may want to use some of your refund to pay down some of these debts. The lower your debt payments, the better your cash flow and the more money you'll have to invest for the future.
- **BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND.** If you don't already have an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, you could use your tax refund to start one. Without such a fund, you may find yourself constantly dipping into your long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or an expensive car repair. Keep your emergency fund in

a liquid account — one that you don't draw on for your day-to-day expenses.

- **HELP FUND YOUR IRA.** In 2010, you can put in up to \$5,000 to your IRA. Consequently, if you received a \$2,700 refund, you'd have more than half of what you need to fully fund your IRA for the year. (If you're 50 or older, however, you can contribute up to \$6,000 per year.)

You might not think that your \$2,700 would make much of a difference in the long run. But by investing your refund and giving it many years of growth potential, you could end up with a sizable amount. Consider the following:

- If you put \$2,700 in your IRA, and you earned, on average, seven percent a year for 30 years, you'd end up with about \$20,000, even if you never invested another dime.
- If you put \$2,700 every year in that same IRA, again earning an average seven percent annual return, you'd end up with more than \$270,000 after thirty years.

(Continued on Page 10)

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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

Financial Focus- (Continued from Page 9)

(These examples are hypothetical illustrations and do not represent any currently available investments.)

You'd eventually have to pay taxes on your earnings, typically when you make withdrawals at retirement. And if you qualified for a Roth IRA, you'd never have to pay taxes on your earnings, as long as you had your account for at least five years and didn't start taking withdrawals until you were at least 59-1/2.

• **CONTRIBUTE TO A SECTION 529 PLAN.** If you have children or grandchildren, you may want to establish Section 529 plans to help them pay for college. You can contribute virtually any amount, and the earnings grow tax-free, provided the money is used for higher education expenses. (Withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal, state and penalty taxes. Contributions are tax-deductible in certain states for residents who participate in their own state's plan. Please note that a 529 college savings plan could impact a beneficiary's ability to qualify for financial aid.)

You may be tempted to spend your tax refund on things you want today — but, with a little planning, you can use it for things you need tomorrow.

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For you readers, here are a few of my favorite free software choices that won't get you into trouble:

For Windows machines, I like Picasa for doing simple editing and cleanup of photos. It's from the folks at Google and you can find it just by going to www.Picasa.com (note that it's Picasa ending with an "a" and not Picasso like the painter with the additional "s"). Do you shop online and like to keep the receipts? Rather than printing them out and storing them in a filing cabinet, use CutePDF to "print" your receipts (or anything else that can be sent to a printer) into a PDF file that you can save on your hard drive. I buy a lot online and CutePDF lets me store all the receipts into a folder on my hard drive that makes life much easier at tax time for my accountant (which is this month if my calendar is correct.) You can download CutePDF at www.CutePDF.com, just download the CutePDF Writer. It installs as if it were a printer and you're ready to go.

For the Mac, Anxiety is a useful to-do list manager to (hopefully) reduce the stress in your life in getting all the things you need to get done, done. It works with iCal and Mail. You can download



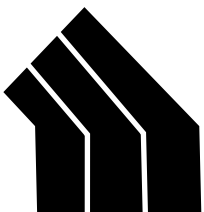
it at <http://www.anxietyapp.com/>. Carbon Copy Cloner lets you backup your entire hard drive to another, allowing you to boot to the 2nd drive should the first one fail completely (and it happens more often than you know.) Download it at <http://www.bombich.com/>.

Stay away from sites offering free music or movies (like LimeWire), this is an excellent way to contract a virus. If you think you're getting something

that costs money in a store for free online, it's probably going to cost you more than you know by the time you get your computer cleaned up.

Be skeptical and be safe. One of the best places to go for free software is <http://sourceforge.net/>. You're not going to find Microsoft Office for free, but you might find a program that does something close. Want Photoshop but don't have \$400 to spend, then check out Gimp. There are a lot of genuinely nice people developing programs because they enjoy doing it. Some will ask for but not require a donation, that's only fair. If you like a program, throw a few dollars their way to encourage them to keep improving their program. If you can say "I wish I had a program that", then you'll probably find something at SourceForge.net that meets your needs. - Submitted by Laurie Scott

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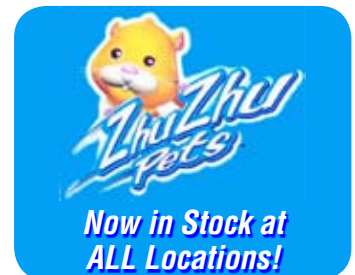


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# of Listings	11	2	10
Price Range:	\$169,900 \$279,900	\$164,900 \$259,900	\$186,250 \$275,000
Average Price	\$238,151	\$212,400	\$234,375
Avg Price/sq.ft.	\$82.12	\$86.94	\$76.74
Avg DOM	60	32	61
High Price/sq.ft.			\$94.52
Low Price/sq.ft.			\$65.81



RE/MAX

Professional Group
832-478-1205

Direct line: **281-477-0345**

WWW.SUPERDAVE.COM

*According to information taken from the HAR MLS Computer

**Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2008, 3/2009