



Volume 15

June 2010

No. 6

Thanks A Ton!

Cub Scout Pack 866 (Gleason Elementary) would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of our neighbors. The Scouts held a food drive benefitting the Northwest Assistance Ministries food bank on Saturday, March 6 in the Willowbridge, Stonebridge, and Winchester Village neighborhoods. Over a TON (2,626 pounds, to be exact!) of food was collected. Because the drive was conducted in March, the proceeds were also matched by the Feinstein Foundation.

The food drive is an annual service project for Pack 866 that the boys look forward to each year. There was a large group of Scouts and their families that helped distribute the bags provided by Kroger's and then pick up the food contributed by our neighbors.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions! Over two tons of food is a wonderful gift to those in need right here in our community.

Yard of the Month



The May Yard of the Month winner in Willowbridge is Juan and Veronica Padron at 9422 Pearsall

New Yard of the Month Contact

We now have new coordinators for our Yard of the Month Program.

Chuck and Karen Roush of Willowbridge have stepped up to take over this position. We want to thank them for volunteering!

Chuck and Karen live on Tascosa Lane with their two children and their two dogs. They have been Willowbridge residents since 1993.

Over the years, they have been very active in our neighborhood – helping Fred Edler establish the Neighborhood Watch Program, handling pool tag distribution for a number of years, serving as the Welcoming Committee, involved in the Moms Group and Bunko.

You may recognize them as you see them riding through the neighborhood on their bikes, periodically stopping to take pictures of all the great landscaping they see.

If you have a nomination for Yard of the Month, please send it directly to them at chuckroush@att.net



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
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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
Clubhouse/Reservations
Sherita Jeter 281-870-0585 ext 127
Pool Parties
..... TBD
Pool Tags
PCMI.....281- 870 - 0585
Marquee Coordinator
Barbara Lallinger..... 281-890-8464
Newsletter Coordinator
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.

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.

NOTICE:

Fireworks are prohibited in accordance to the Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions.

TALKING TRASH

by Barbara Lallinger

At newsletter deadline time (Monday, May 10), I noticed that Waste Management (WM) came earlier in the day (as they did last Thursday also). I called them and asked if we had a new schedule. They said possibly, as they have re-routed some of the commercial routes, which could result in a change in schedule for some residential routes. So.. that's not a real answer, but I guess it's better than nothing. They also reminded me that WM may pick up any time between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Recycle, Recycle and Recycle

Are you aware that Texas passed HB2714 which went into effect in 2008, requiring all companies selling computers in Texas to provide their customers with a convenient means to recycle their old products? The bill covers laptops, desktops and computer monitors, but excludes televisions. It was created to benefit people who purchased computers for personal or home office use, not larger buyers, such as small business and government agencies.

Many local retailers accept certain types of computers and televisions for e-waste trade-in programs or recycling, including Costco, Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Sony. Each has guidelines on what products it will accept. Visit www.texastakeback.com for more information. To find out if a

computer is covered by HB 2714, visit www.texasrecyclescomputers.org for a complete list of links and information.

On the business side, Compucycle, a northwest Houston company, provides end-of-life IT services to corporations, collecting their assets and inventory and erasing data from hard drives using Department of Defense compliance software or physically shredding on site. The company will accept and refurbish machines for remarketing if possible or recycle the equipment. They will also accept old computers from residents for free if they have an agreement with the manufacturer (like Sony), but a service fee is charged for disposal of other products. Compucycle does not export to overseas landfills (about 80% of other companies in the business do).

Dell Computers has partnered with Goodwill Industries to start Computer Works, a retail store front that opened in Houston in 2008 to make recycling and refurbishing services easily available. You can donate computer hardware, software and accessories to any Goodwill location.

Lone Star College Cy-Fair Technology Society has also partnered with Goodwill. The campus based club held an electronics drive earlier this year and collected about 2,300 pounds of recyclable materials, including computers and televisions. They plan to make this a biannual event for the club to be held every spring and fall semester.

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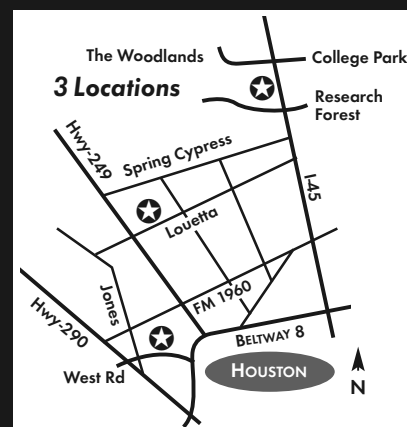


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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

THE RECIPE BOX

Sherry Cherry Tomatoes

by Jodi Jennings

2 T. extra virgin olive oil 3 large cloves garlic, finely chopped
2 T. sherry vinegar or dry sherry 1 small onion, finely chopped
1 t. sugar 1 pint cherry tomatoes
½ t. crushed red pepper flakes salt to taste

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Preheat a skillet over medium high heat; add olive oil, garlic and onions. Sweat them out 2 to 3 minutes, then add cherry tomatoes. Turn tomatoes to coat with oil mixture. Add sherry or sherry vinegar, sugar, pepper flakes and salt. Toss to coat tomatoes and roast for 18 to 20 minutes.

Roasted Asparagus Tips

by Jodi Jennings

2 lbs. asparagus, trimmed 3 T. extra virgin olive oil
to 4 to 5 inch tips ¼ lemon, juiced
1 shallot, finely chopped salt and pepper to taste
1 t. tarragon leaves, freshly chopped

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Pile asparagus onto a baking sheet. Combine olive oil, lemon juice, shallots and tarragon. Pour the dressing over asparagus and turn spears to coat. Lay spears flat and season with salt and pepper. Roast 15 to 17 minutes. Remove from oven and toss with a squirt of lemon juice.



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Harris County Juvenile Curfew Ordinance

The origin of the Juvenile curfew for Harris County was approved on September 19, 1995 by Commissioners Court. The curfew order for the unincorporated areas of the county became effective October 1, 1995.

The curfew includes all areas located in unincorporated Harris County. Juveniles under the age of 17 are subject to the Harris County Juvenile Curfew order.

The Juvenile Curfew is enforced seven days a week. The hour of enforcement is from 12 midnight to 6 a.m. in the morning.

The exceptions to the curfew are:

- Accompanied by parent, guardian or custodian
- Engaged in lawful employment or traveling to or from employment
- Participating or traveling to or from school-sponsored or church-affiliated activities, recreational activities supervised by adults and sponsored by a government entity, civic, non-profit organization or similar entity that takes responsibility for the juveniles.
- On sidewalk of Juvenile's residence or sidewalk of next door neighbor, if neighbor does not complain
- Involved in an emergency
- In vehicle or aircraft involved in interstate travel with the consent of a parent, guardian, or custodian
- Married or previously married; or had disabilities of minority removed by a court of competent jurisdiction

Law enforcement officers will carefully assess each situation regarding a possible infraction of the juvenile curfew. If the juvenile is taken into custody, the juvenile may be transported to a processing center.

While at the processing center, the juvenile's parent, guardian or custodian will be contacted and asked to pick up the juvenile. If a parent, guardian or custodian cannot be located or does not pick up the juvenile, the juvenile will be transported to Chimney Rock Center operated by Children's Protective Services.

The juvenile can receive a citation, which is a Class C Misdemeanor up to \$500.00. In addition, the parent, guardian or custodian may also be issued a citation if they knowingly allow juvenile to violate curfew. Owner, operator and other person in control of a public place may be issued a citation if they knowingly permit juvenile to remain on premises during curfew hours.

If you live in one of the many corporate boundaries of a municipality, town and village located within Harris County, be sure and check with the Law Enforcement agency in your area for details of their juvenile curfew laws.

Many juveniles do not recognize the potential dangers they face by being on the streets during these times. The curfew will reduce the chances of these juveniles becoming a victim of crime.

4th of July Block Party

Sunday, July 4
6:00-9:30pm

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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

THINK BEFORE YOU DRIVE

DRINKING AND DRIVING LAWS IN TEXAS

The State of Texas prohibits the operation of a motor vehicle by drivers with a .08 percent or above blood alcohol concentration (BAC). The .08 limit is used across the United States as the benchmark for the "impaired" driver. Texas has lower limits in place for commercial drivers (.04) and for drivers under the age of 21 (.02). The Texas DWI law also makes it illegal to drive while under the influence of controlled substances such as marijuana, cocaine, inhalants and other intoxicants.

How many drinks does it take to reach the legal limit in Texas?

This question is often asked by drivers who want to know how many drinks they can have before they reach the .08 BAC limit. A BAC score is determined by a number of different variables such as weight, sex, elapsed time interval between drinks and many other factors. Although there are charts and calculators to help you determine your BAC, these tools do not take into account all variables that contribute to a BAC score.

The best answer is not to drink and drive. The State of Texas has strict laws for drunk driving, and when you drink and drive in Texas, you risk your freedom, finances and your future.

The first time you are arrested in the State of Texas for drunk driving

you will receive a fine up to \$2,000. You will also be confined to jail for no less than 72 hours and no more than 180 days. Your drivers license will be suspended for no less than 90 days and no more than 1 year. You may also be ordered to install an ignition interlock device on the vehicle at your own expense.

The second time you are arrested and convicted of a DWI in Texas you will be fined up to \$4,000. You will also serve a minimum of 30 days in jail up to 1 year. Your drivers license will be suspended for a minimum of 6 months or up to 2 years. You may also be ordered to install an ignition interlock device on the vehicle at your own expense.

The 3rd conviction for a DWI in Texas is considered a 3rd degree felony. You will be fined up to \$10,000 and serve no less than 2 years or up to 10 years in the penitentiary. Your drivers license will also be suspended up to 2 years. You may also be ordered to install an ignition interlock device on the vehicle at your own expense

TEXAS CROSSING ZONE - CELL PHONE LAW

Texas - House Bill 55 was signed by the Governor in June of 2009. The new law prohibits the use of a wireless communication device within a school crossing zone.

There is an exception for the use of a hands free device.

(Continued on Page 7)



Chalk art from the heart

Participate this June 12th - 20th in *Chalk Art from the Heart* and help us promote water safety. Drowning is Preventable!

Check out our website for details, contest rules and PRIZES!

WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG



COLIN'S HOPE

Think Before You Drive - (Continued from Page 6)

The new law also prohibits bus operators from using a wireless communication device while operating a passenger bus with a minor passenger unless the bus is stopped.

There are exceptions for emergency situations, for more details on the new law please read House Bill 55.

Cell Phone and Text Messaging (Driver's Under 18)

The Texas Department of Public Safety has clarified the laws regarding cell phones and other wireless communication devices for drivers that are under the age of 18.

HB 2730 and HB 339, enacted recently by the 81st Texas Legislature, restrict all drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle.

This new restriction applies to licenses issued after September 1, 2009, to applicants who are under 18.

All drivers under 18 who were issued an original driver license before September 1, 2009 are still restricted from using a wireless communication device during the six-month period following the issuance of that original license.

The use of a wireless communication device cannot be used to make a traffic stop.

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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

THE SCHOOL ZONE

By Barbara Lallinger

What Is That Melody That I Hear?

That would be Melody Goffney, the new Principal of Gleason Elementary for the 2010-2011 school year. Mrs. Goffney replaces Sandra McNeely, who will retire this month.

In a letter to Gleason parents, Dr. David Anthony, Superintendent of CFISD, stated that Mrs. Goffney brings a wealth of experience, training, productive service and leadership to this position.

Mrs. Goffney has spent 12 years in education, 10 of those with CFISD. She began as a teacher in Aldine ISD, transferred into CFISD, first at Holmsley EL, where she taught for 4 years, then to Lamkin EL as an instructional specialist. Due to Mrs. Goffney's outstanding leadership skills, she was promoted to Assistant Principal and served 1 year in that role at Duryea EL and then transferred to Postma EL when it opened 4 years ago.

Mrs. Goffney received her Bachelor of Science degree from Sam Houston State University in elementary education and a Master of Education degree from Prairie View A & M University. She holds certifications in Elementary Self-Contained (1-8), Early Childhood Education (PK-6), Elementary History (1-8) and Principal (EC-12).

\$711 Million Budget Approved and Balanced

According to Dr. David Anthony, Superintendent of CFISD, the approval of the budget by the board on April 7, was an 8 month project that dominated the lives of many in the district, resulting in a balanced budget and the first district funded salary increase for all employees since 2007.

Dr. Anthony noted that in better financial times, many of our required budget deductions during the past 4 years would not have even been on the radar. He said the success of CFISD will lie in our ability to transform district services and processes in such a manner that negatives are not accentuated; as we can't change the realities that we currently face.

CFISD has cut more than \$66 million in costs from their budget during the last 4 years, which resulted in elimination of programs,

positions and services. Dr. Anthony agrees with community input, that the district cannot afford deeper cuts without impacting the quality of services that can be delivered. He commented that the budget is balanced and the stage is set for 2010-2011; however, we must continue to plan for the future, work with legislators and take action as a community to protect the long-standing reputation of excellence in CFISD.

Listed below are some of the major cuts to the 2010-2011 budget:

1. Special Education: All schools will shift to the "In-Class Support" model, which means that students with disabilities will be supported by special education support personnel in general education classrooms.
2. Revised Teaching Schedule: Implementation at the secondary level, which will have teachers instructing students in 6 out of 7 class periods with one conference period; as opposed to the current teaching schedule of 5 out of 7 periods.
3. Custodial: Each custodian will be responsible for maintaining 30,000 square feet (an increase of 4,000 square feet). In addition, there will be a reduction of custodian and parts specialist employees via attrition (employee resignations and retirements).
4. Food Service: This department will start reimbursing the general fund for electricity and maintenance costs, as it is funded through a separate source.
5. D.A.R.E.: Last but certainly not least (and sad), the district's Drug Abuse Resistance and Education program (D.A.R.E.), which is taught in 5th grade.

A STAAR is Rising!

According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the next generation of student tests will be called the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), pronounced the same as "star".

STAAR will replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), which is the standardized test that has been in place since 2003. STAAR will be used for the 12 end-of-course (EOC)

(Continued on Page 9)

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School Zone - (Continued from Page 8)

assessments mandated by Texas SB1031 in 2007 and the new grade 3-8 assessments mandated by HB 3 in the 2009 legislative session.

The new tests will be used in the 2011-2012 school year. Current 7th graders will be the first students who must meet the EOC testing requirements, as well as pass their classes, in order to get a diploma.

According to TEA, the new tests will be significantly more "rigorous" than previous tests and will measure a child's performance and academic growth.

The grade 3-8 STAAR tests in reading and mathematics, by law, must be linked from grade to grade to performance expectations, for English III and Algebra II EOC assessments.

The last TAKS based school accountability ratings will be issued in 2011. Ratings will be suspended in 2012 while a new accountability system is developed. The new state rating system will debut in 2013.

To Submit Articles:

E-Mail articles and photos to the following address: articles@PEELinc.com. 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 *WillowTalk*. Accurate and beneficial community information will be posted at the board of director's discretion.

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To Our New Home Owner!

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I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.

I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.

I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.

I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.

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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 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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Real Estate Market Report

Willowbridge Specialist

DAVID "SUPER DAVE" FLORY



- **#1** Realtor in Willowbridge*
- **#2** Realtor in Houston & Texas**
- **#7** Realtor in United States**
- **Selling Over 500 Homes A Year**

	ACTIVE	PENDING	SOLD Last 6 Mos
# of Listings	6	4	9
Price Range:	\$185,000 \$299,900	\$182,000 \$279,900	\$159,900 \$253,000
Average Price	\$230,344	\$244,475	\$220,627
Avg Price/sq.ft.	\$79.95	\$84.97	\$77.99
Avg DOM	85	43	84
High Price/sq.ft.			\$88.34
Low Price/sq.ft.			\$69.17



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