JULY
Yard of the Month

Congratulations to 9522 Leaning Tree Ln., our July winner of Yard of the Month! Despite our hot, dry June, these homeowners were able to maintain a green lawn and lush garden. This house is a corner lot, so we know how much more they have to work than the rest of us. They’ve won a $25 gift card. It is Crepe Myrtle blooming season and we have seen some beautiful colors. We will be judging our last Yard of the Month on Monday, August 1st, so you’ve got one more chance. Just a reminder to homeowners: You must be in good standings and not be delinquent on your dues to be eligible to win Yard of the Month.

By the YOM Committee

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello residents! After proudly serving our community for five years as editor of our newsletter, I am stepping down to pursue other interests, but I will continue to volunteer in other ways. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the board and the committee chairpersons and meeting new people. Their time and efforts have been invaluable and they deserve much respect.

The August newsletter will be the last newsletter I will submit to the publisher as editor. Originally, after I made the decision to retire as editor I contacted all concerned, including Mr. Peel of Peel, Inc., our publisher. It was only then that I was made aware of the position Willowlake is now in with Peel, Inc. Mr. Peel’s further comments written below are sincere and better spoken than I. Also, I would like to add that Mr. Peel has been so helpful and easy to work with throughout my service, and the graphics he added to our articles really made them stand out.

The newsletter has been an important tool in communicating with our residents, and I deeply hope that its purpose will continue in some form or fashion. The board will meet and discuss possible solutions to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact any board member.

Sincerely,
Linda O’Pry

NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. has been providing the Willowlake community newsletter, the Willowlake Watch, for over ten years. We have designed, printed and mailed 128 issues (including this one) which equal about 64,000 copies over that time frame. We have been able to do this 100% FREE to the Willowlake HOA, funding the newsletter through advertising. In recent months we have noticed a decline in advertising support to the point that it is not economically feasible for us to continue publication. The August issue will be the last issue we are able to provide.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Willowlake HOA over the last ten years and appreciate everyone’s effort.
Best of luck in the future,
Kelly Peel • Peel, Inc. • Vice President | COO
**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Emergencies</td>
<td>911</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bratton Pools</td>
<td>281-988-7700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cypress-Fairbanks Hospital</td>
<td>281-897-3300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harris County Sheriff</td>
<td>713-221-6000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Public Safety</td>
<td>281-890-5440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Department (non-emergency)</td>
<td>713-659-2111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center Point Energy - Power Outages Only</td>
<td>713-207-2222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center Point Energy - Gas</td>
<td>713-890-5440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County Animal Control</td>
<td>281-999-3191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial City Hospital</td>
<td>713-932-3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUD #11</td>
<td>281-807-9500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison Control Center</td>
<td>800-222-1222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willowplace Post Office</td>
<td>281-890-2392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County Road &amp; Bridge</td>
<td>281-353-8424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VF Waste Services, Inc.</td>
<td>713-787-9790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris Co. Public Health &amp; Environ. Svcs.</td>
<td>713-920-2831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5 Vacation Watch</td>
<td>281-290-2100</td>
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For information on your homeowner’s assessments, deed restriction violations or questions in general please contact:

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FOR SALE: Stationary bike in good condition $75
If interested contact 832-248-3997.

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**Recipe of the Month**

**PECAN BARS**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup dark corn syrup
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/4 cups chopped pecans

**INSTRUCTIONS:**
Combine flour and 1/3 cup brown sugar. Cut in 3/4 cup butter with pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal. Press mixture evenly into a greased 13- x 9- x 2-inch pan. Bake at 350 deg. for 15 to 17 minutes.
Combine 1 cup brown sugar and remaining ingredients except pecans, beating well. Stir in pecans. Pour filling over prepared crust. Bake at 350 deg. for 35 to 40 minutes or until firm. Let cool, and cut into bars. Yield: about 2-1/2 dozen.
Cold Treats at the Gazebo

Our July 4th Ice Cream Social was a popular success with more than 50 attendees. Our event even motivated a dozen residents to walk from the WL swimming pool to the Gazebo. The picture shows many of those happy swimmers.

Ideas for Future Social Events

Have you been wishing for a certain social opportunity? Perhaps, we can develop it as a neighborhood event. Contact James Deitiker at deitiker@sbcglobal.net to report your idea.

By James Deitiker, Social Events Chairperson

Kids’ Corner

If you weigh 120 pounds on Earth, you'll weigh about 20 pounds on the moon.
Joke of the Day

A man walks up to an attractive girl in a disco and asks, “Would you like to dance?”
“I wouldn’t dance with you if you were the last man on Earth,” she snorts.
“I don’t think you heard me correctly,” the man says. “I said, “You look fat in those pants.”
Moral of the story…it pays to be nice.

WILLOWLAKE HOMESCHOOL CORNER
By Lynn Ptwonski, 832-704-1252, LMP4040@yahoo.com

Did you know?
• Texas is one of the best states in the country for homeschoolers!
• Homeschools are considered private schools in Texas.
• Standardized testing is not required in homeschools.

What are the requirements to homeschool in Texas?
Age requirements: “a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade and who has not yet reached the child’s 18th birthday shall attend school.” A child 17 years of age who has been issued an equivalency certificate is exempt.

Curriculum: Homeschools must be conducted in a bona fide manner, using a written curriculum consisting of reading, spelling, grammar, math and a course in good citizenship; no other requirements apply. A homeschool that includes a course of study in good citizenship is exempt from the compulsory attendance of 180 days that is required in public schools.

What curriculums are available for homeschoolers? Consider using the term “approach” when it comes to choosing curriculum. The 5 most common learning approaches are: traditional, classical, living books, unit studies, and relaxed/unschooling. One particular approach may be a great fit for your family or you might mix and match or combine several different approaches to help you create the ideal materials for your student’s learning style. There is not one “right” way to homeschool!

Have you heard about the latest new curriculum this year?
Former Texas Congressman Ron Paul will roll out his K-12 homeschool curriculum for K-12 students on September 2, 2013. It is free for students in kindergarten through 5th grade and will “teach the biblical principles of self-government and personal responsibility.” The cost of tuition for 6th through 12th grade is $250 per student per year, and an additional $50 for each course.

How do I withdraw my child from public school in Texas?
The only requirement to withdraw your child from a Texas public school is a written “statement of assurance” provided by the parents to the school district. The written statement of assurance holds the parents accountable to provide a bona fide educational experience for a child in lieu of public school attendance. The parents do not have to visit with a school official or provide examples of the curriculum that will be offered.

ONLINE RESOURCES:
Learning approaches: www.homeschoolmarketplace.com
Online Curriculum: www.ronpaulcurriculum.com
Homeschool textbooks/materials: www.christianbook.com
Discount curriculum/gently used, etc.: www.ebay.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:
The Artist Within Art Studio School, 12754 Grant Road, Cypress
2. Cypress Homeschool Association Open House, August 2013
Exact date and time TBD soon. Call me for more info

Willowlake Watch - August 2013
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SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Schools will be back in session on August 26, 2013. Please be aware of children walking and biking to and from school! Of course, we want all children to be safe and school buses are relatively safe; however, accidents and injuries involving school buses do happen. More often than not these injuries happen when children are entering or exiting the bus. Here are some safety tips for school bus riders:

• Have a safe place to wait for the bus, away from traffic and the street.
• Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
• Hold onto the handrails when entering or exiting the bus.
• Once on the bus, take your seat and remain seated face forward.
• Talk quietly so that you don’t distract the driver.
• Never throw things on the bus and keep your hands to yourself.
• When you exit the bus, take ten giant steps away from the bus. When you are closer than 10 feet from the bus, the driver might not see you. This is known as the DANGER ZONE.
• If you forget something on the bus, do not return to the bus. The driver might not see you.
• Be aware of the street traffic around you.
• If you need to cross the street, cross in front of the bus, never behind the bus.

Motorists should follow safety rules around school buses. Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop. Motorists should slow down and be prepared to stop. Red flashing lights indicate that the bus has stopped and that children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red flashing lights are turned off. Here are a few more safety tips for motorists:

• When backing out of a driveway or garage, watch out for children.
• When driving through neighborhoods and especially in school zones, watch out for children. Children don’t always pay attention to traffic and don’t always know that motorists have trouble seeing them.
• Slow down. Watch out for children walking or playing in the street.
• Be alert and ready to stop. Children sometimes dart into the street.

PROPER BUS STOP ETIQUETTE

Submitted by Linda O’Pry

Cy-Fair schools will begin classes on Monday, August 26, 2013. This means that children, and sometimes parents, are congregated at our street corners waiting for the school bus to arrive. In some ways, this presents certain problems that should be addressed and avoided. Below is a proper bus stop etiquette list that both children and parents should follow.

• NO LITTERING. Please pick up after yourselves. Do not leave empty morning snack wrappers, juice boxes, etc. at the bus stop where the wind can blow them into neighbor’s yards and also down the sewers.
• Don’t spit gum out on the pavement for others to step in.
• Keep your voices down. Please be considerate of the fact that voices echo and not everyone is awake at the same time.
• No horseplay or fighting. No crowding to get on or off the bus.
• Do not run in and out of the street. This is dangerous for the children as well as drivers trying to maneuver around them.
• Parents, if you take your children to the bus stop, please watch them until the bus arrives. Don’t make them someone else’s problem.
• Don’t block the road; move when cars are coming. This will speed up traffic with so many residents exiting the neighborhood to get to work.
• KEEP OFF THE GRASS. Do not allow your kids to run onto someone else’s lawn. The bus stop takes place on the curb…not someone’s front lawn.
• Avoid holding up traffic while chatting with the bus driver.
• If your child is having an issue with someone on the bus or with the actual driver…call the school and work it out.
Irrigation Basics
How's, Why's and When's Of Watering

How much and how often should you water your grass? Sounds like a pretty basic question, but the answer isn't a simple one. Irrigation and watering needs are dependent on many factors — the kind of grass you have, your soil profile, mowing height and the kind of irrigation system or sprinkler system you have. Plus, of course, what Mother Nature doles out.

My basic irrigation schedule takes into consideration temperatures and rainfall:

Normally, turf and landscapes in this area do fine with 1-1½ inches per seven-day week when daytime temperatures are in the 70s and 80s. As daytime highs hit 88-92, you can probably up that to 1-1½ inches every four to five days. When temperatures exceed 93 degrees consistently (normally July-August) you should probably water every two to three days. The kind of grass you have is also very important. St. Augustine needs the most water, Bermuda the next most, and Zoysia far less than the previous two.

Your soil, however, is ultimately the most critical factor. Clay or sandy soils not very well enriched with organic matter definitely need more water because they dry out quicker. Water early in the morning; that’s when water pressure is best, there’s less wind to evaporate the moisture and the turf will have a store of water for the warm day ahead. If you have an automatic sprinkler, schedule it to run between 3 and 8 a.m. If you don’t have an automatic system, start the sprinkler when you first get up. If you water at night, you run the risk of suffering fungal diseases like brownpatch.

How do you determine how much time it takes for your system to put out an inch of water? Place an empty tuna or cat food can at the farthest point the spray pattern reaches. When it fills up, that’s how long it takes. Depending on the system, the time can range from 15-45 minutes. If it seems some of your neighbors don’t run their sprinklers as much as you, it could be they have more organic matter in their soil. Rich, organic soil doesn’t happen overnight, though ... enriched topsoil or soil activators need to be added consistently each year.

Finally, if you aren’t mowing as tall as your lawnmower will allow, make the change today. Tall grass in good soil develops deeper roots which draw a larger volume of deep moisture, requiring less supplemental irrigation. Plus, lawns mowed tall provide shade for their root system. There is one caveat to all of the above, however. Newly sodded lawns need to be watered on a daily basis during the heat of the summer. Keep the “mud” wet under the root zone so it will break down and allow the roots to establish in the soil below. Don’t drown the new sod, just keep it moist enough to soften the soil and help the roots grow down.

This tip sheet is reprinted by permission from Randy Lemmon, who can be heard on the GardenLine Radio program weekend mornings from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Newsradio 740 KTRH (www.randylemmon.com).
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**Do You Have Reason to Celebrate?**

We want to hear from you! Email articles@PEELinc.com to let the community know!

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**WANT A GREAT RIDE?**

SELL US YOUR CAR!

[Logo: TexasDirectAuto.com]
DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

COLIN'S HOPE
WATER SAFETY TIPS AT WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG

2013
August Calendar

Ongoing: Volunteers needed to distribute water safety packets, info@colinshope.org
August 19: Got2Skate for Colin’s Hope Fundraiser, 6:30-8:30pm at Playland Skate Center
August 29: Colin’s Hope Got2Swim Lake Austin 10K/10 miler, http://www.tinych.org/got2swim
September 8: 5th Annual Colin’s Hope Kids Triathlon, http://www.tinych.org/KidsTri
October 19: Sharkfest Austin Swim benefitting Colin’s Hope, www.sharkfestswim.com

ALERT: 36 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year. Many more have survived non-fatal drowning incidents. Be a Water Guardian and Watch Kids around Water. Drownings are preventable!

LAYERS OF PROTECTION

- CONSTANT VISUAL SUPERVISION
- LEARN TO SWIM
- WEAR LIFE JACKETS
- MULTIPLE BARRIERS ON ALL POOLS & HOTTUBS
- KEEP BACKYARDS & BATHROOMS SAFE
- LEARN CPR
- CHECK POOLS & HOTTUBS 1ST FOR MISSING CHILDREN
- VISIT US ONLINE