

WillowTalk

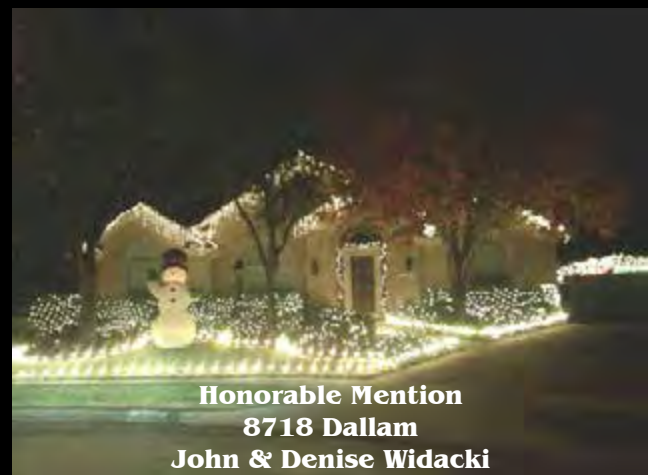
Willowbridge - Stonebridge Homeowners Association Newsletter
www.willowbridgehoa.com

Volume 19

February 2014

No. 2

CONGRATULATIONS *to the Christmas Decoration Winners!*



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
Street Lights & Outages - CenterPoint Energy.....	713-207-2222
CenterPoint Energy.....	713-659-2111
Newsletter Publisher	
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Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
AT&T - Repair	800-246-8464
Billing	800-585-7928
Trash – Royal Disposal & Recycle	713-526-1536
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
Cable/Internet/Phone...COMCAST	713-341-1000

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Beautification Committee

Jennifer Y'Barbo	jhybarbo@subhou.com
Homeowners Association	281-497-4320
Graham Mgmt - Tracy Graham	
.....	grahammanagement@sbcglobal.net

Clubhouse/Reservations

Kaci Graham.....	281-497-4320
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Pool Parties/Tags

Sweetwater Pool Co.	281-988-8480
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Marquee Coordinator

Barbara Lallinger.....	281-890-8464
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Newsletter Coordinator

Barbara Lallinger & Rebecca Peters.....	
.....	willowbridgenews@gmail.com

Security Coordinator

Julie Dubros.....	281-794-9032
.....	martin@juliedubros.com

Website Coordinator

Angela Doray.....	willowbridgehoa@live.com
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Yard of the Month Committee

Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Contact

Jennifer Y'Barbo	jhybarbo@subhou.com
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Soccer Field Reservations

Terese Joubran	tmjoubran@gmail.com
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Lost Pet Coordinator

Sonia Moore	msrco@aol.com, 281-955-8068
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Welcoming Committee

Gracie Galvan	281-732-0009
.....	galvangracie@hotmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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George Schaudel	Secretary
Rebecca Peters.....	Treasurer
Brian Fisher.....	Director

HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners Association Inc. - Graham Mgmt
Tracy Graham 281-497-4320
E-Mail grahammanagement@sbcglobal.net
Fax 281-870-1654
If you have any questions or comments regarding the neighborhood please contact the numbers above.

HOA MEETINGS

Willowbridge/Stonebridge Homeowner's Association
Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at the community clubhouse at 7:00 pm.

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.



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SPRING FORWARD

SPRING FESTIVAL TIME CHANGE

Leah Protz, Spring Festival Organizer is still looking for volunteers for the Festival. High school students this is a great way to earn your community service hours! The Festival is scheduled for Saturday April 5, 2014, from **2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**, at the clubhouse and surrounding grounds. If you can help please contact Leah Protz at lp0486@gmail.com

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Cub Scout Pack 866 (Gleason Elementary) will be collecting non-perishable food and personal care items on Saturday, March 1st (donation bags will be left on homeowner's front porches on the weekend before). Please leave donations on your front porch no later than 8:00 am on Saturday.

This pack's collections support Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM). For more information/questions, please contact Matt Pena at matt_pena@yahoo.com or (281) 974-7527.



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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

MENDING BRIDGES

neighborhood update

Have you noticed?

- The bridge on Willowbridge Park Blvd. has been repainted.
- The monument in front of the clubhouse has been power washed (letters to be replaced soon).
- The fence around the old basketball court is gone (new pavilion roof is being fabricated)
- The sand is gone from the playground.

Also the Westwillow Dog Park (written about by Glen Telge in the October edition of WillowTalk) is now open. It's a wonderful facility and if you stand above it you will see a large dog paw made from concrete with plants/grass in the pad part of the paw. This park actually contains (2) dog parks, one large and one small. The park has stairs and an ADA compliant switchback for access to the amenities at the bottom. There is also a bike rack and exercise stations located in the park.

Westwillow Park is located behind the Westbridge Subdivision and right now you can only access it by walking or bike riding along the connectivity trails from the Willowbridge/Stonebridge side (with a steel bridge to cross over) due to parking facilities being under construction. When finished, the parking area is supposed to hold (18) vehicles, with (2) spaces designated for Handicapped Parking.

THE SCHOOL ZONE

By Barbara Lallinger

GLEASON EL

School's back in session and off to a rollicking good start. The PTO Spring Fund Raising Committee is starting to put things together for the annual carnival and auction (usually the largest fund raising event for the year). See schedule below for date. Other PTO fund raisers continue such as Spirit Shop, Box Tops and Rose Sales for KISS Days. Please remember to give Gleason's name when supporting the monthly spirit nights (SN) so that the PTO will get their portion of the proceeds.

MARCH

- 3/5 Wed. Willie's Ice House (SN)
- 3/13 Thurs. Chick-fil-A (SN)
- 3/18 Tues. Orange Leaf Yogurt

APRIL

- 4/2 Wed. Willie's Ice House (SN)
- 4/8 Tues. Orange Leaf Yogurt (SN)
- 4/12 Sat. Carnival/Auction (2-7 pm)
- 4/17 Thurs. Chick-fil-A (SN)

BBQ, HORSES, COWS & CHICKENS HELP EDUCATION?

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) was organized for charitable, educational and scientific purposes to encourage and promote breeding, raising and marketing of better livestock and farm products at public fairs and to promote and maintain research and educational functions within the livestock industry. Part of HLSR's excess revenue over expenses grants/funds scholarships, educational endowments, agricultural research projects and other similar programs.

Since its beginning in 1932, HLSA has committed more than \$350 million to scholarships, research, endowments, calf scramble participants, junior show exhibitors, school art participants and other educational youth programs. Many contributions are made before the actual rodeo in the form of BBQ cook-offs held before the "BIG" cook-off. This year's Cypress-Fairbanks BBQ/Chili Cook-off, sponsored by the Houston Metro Go Texan-Cypress Committee will be at Trader's Village on January 24-26 from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm (unfortunately this newsletter won't be published by that date, maybe you can make it next year).

The Rodeo will be kicked off with The World Championship Bar-B-Que Contest held Thursday 2/27 – Saturday 3/1 on the Reliant Stadium parking lot. The Rodeo Grand Parade (downtown) begins at 10:00 am on Saturday 3/1. Livestock stock and rodeo events begin Tuesday, March 4 and go through Sunday March 23. Try to make time to visit the school art and horticulture exhibits (they are amazing!). For more information go to RODEOHOUSTON.com.

TALENT SEARCH IS ON!

CFISD Partners in Education (PIE) is looking for talented students and staff members (singers, actors, dancers, other types of performances, etc.) to perform at the 2014 VIPS Appreciation Event to be held Wednesday, May 14 at the Berry Center. Want to be considered as a part of this event? Please contact Kimberly Nash at the PIE office Kimberly.nash@cfisd.net for a submission form (deadline for submissions 3/7/14 at 4:00 pm).



WHAT DOES HALF A MILLION DOLLARS LOOK LIKE?

By Barbara Lallinger

Recently a resident asked why an article had not been written about Waller Park's transformation? I answered that it was my fault because upon request for information for the newsletter (a very busy time for the person it was requested from) an email of a fact sheet was received, rather than the details (down to types of trees) like what was received for Wheatland Park. Not being as inspired as I was for Wheatland Park the article was postponed, but I continued to tell people to visit and see how wonderful it is now. Even though I still don't have descriptive details, after numerous personal visits (and the fact sheet), it's time to give Waller Park her due.

Waller Park is a 3.4 acre park considered to be a "pocket" park for WHMUD #11. It was completely rehabbed almost a year ago by the MUD to the tune of approximately \$500,000 (no homeowner's assessments were used). During the rehab, dead/dangerous trees and underbrush (including poison oak/ivy) were removed. The rotted bridge and docks (2) were replaced, lake rehabbed and the fountain was repaired. The cracked and broken walkways (.35 mile) were replaced and widened. Seating areas with tables were installed creating picnic areas. The entire park was made ADA compliant (especially noticeable, ramps for access to the park on the Ballinger side) and family friendly. Doggie "doo" stations and "nice" trash receptacles were installed. Grass and various plantings were installed, along with a sprinkler system. Also, a good part of the funds were expended on replacing all of the bulkheads for homes surrounding the park as they were just about on their last leg.

You are probably already aware that the park has wildlife in the form of ducks, birds, squirrels, turtles and fish and most of them love bread and corn. The ducks irritate some of the residents around the park as the ducks consider personal yards to be their bathrooms (this also applies to the sidewalks, docks, etc). Some residents consider them pets and feed them.

Right now, the park is not as pretty as she was a few months ago, she's missing her hair (leaves) and plants are dead from the freeze (whose aren't?). But in a couple of month's Spring will start slipping in, trees and plants will bud and the wildlife will come out of hibernation to greet visitors. If you haven't been there since the rehab, put it on your "to do list". Since it's ADA compliant with wide sidewalks and the new ramp, wheelchairs and strollers have plenty of room to navigate all through the park (someone told me that they even had a nice bike ride through it). This is what half a million \$\$\$ looks like, money well spent!

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BRINGING YOUR NEW PUPPY HOME

by Sonia Moore

When parents find out they are going to have a child, they make all sorts of preparations. You need to make similar preparations when bringing home a new puppy: supplies/equipment you will need, the car ride home, the puppy's activities, feeding, & health care check-up.

SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT

Your puppy is going to need a room or at least a place he can call his own, and a cage or crate. Get one big enough for him to use as an adult. The puppy will also need food & water bowls, toys to chew on & play with, a collar & leash, a bag of good quality dry puppy food, & plenty of newspapers or training pads if you are going to housetrain inside.

THE CAR RIDE HOME

The big day arrives! It is off to pick up the new puppy. Coming home will start out with a car ride from the shelter. Try to keep this from being an overly stressful experience for the puppy. The main problem dogs have with car rides usually is not what we humans refer to as motion sickness, but simple anxiety about the vibrations, sounds, & the movement. Many dogs that have developed problems with car rides get nervous or even nauseous before the engine is even started. It is important that this first trip be a good experience!

Before you leave the shelter, try to get the puppy to go to the bathroom so there are no surprises due to all the excitement. On this first trip, we break a cardinal rule about traveling with pets! We do not put them in a crate for traveling! Remember, they are small & easy to hold. Have someone other than the driver hold the puppy in a blanket or towel & talk or distract it from the ride. If you have a long way to go & need to stop for the puppy to relieve itself, do not use a highway rest stop. At the puppy's young age, it has very little protection from common dog diseases, & these areas can be contaminated.

BEING WITH PEOPLE THE FIRST DAYS HOME

Leaving his mother & littermates will probably bring about some anxiety. However, this can be greatly diminished if you plan your schedules so that you will be home with the puppy the first 3-4 days (weekend). A good plan for this short introductory period is to keep the puppy involved with plenty of attention from children &/or other family members. When no one is with the puppy, he will be sleeping. You will be amazed how time spent in this manner will speed up the housebreaking process. If the children are young

(Continued on Page 7)



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Bringing Your New Puppy Home (Continued from Page 6)

or not familiar with how to handle puppies, you should spend time with them during these first few days explaining common sense rules on how to play with the puppy (never dropping or throwing it!).

FEEDING

What, when, & how to feed puppies becomes a major issue on the first few days. Many new owners worry that without his mother's milk, the new puppy is going to have a hard time adjusting to his new home & family. Hopefully, where you acquired the puppy will give instructions on what the puppy has been fed. It is a good idea to continue feeding the same type & brand of food for at least a week or two. All new puppy owners should use a good quality dry puppy food.

GETTING A HEALTH CARE CHECK-UP

One of the first things you need to do is get the puppy into a veterinarian for an initial examination. You will want to make sure the puppy is in perfect health, free of any congenital traits, or other medical conditions. Also, find out exactly what the shelter has done for the puppy. In all probability, the puppy has had some vaccinations, is on a deworming schedule, & may already be on a heartworm preventative. Your veterinarian will need all of this information along with the puppy's approximate birth date.

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