



WillowTalk

Willowbridge - Stonebridge Homeowners Association Newsletter
www.willowbridgehoa.com

Volume 19

March 2014

No. 3

WHO, WHAT, WHEN & WHERE

Who: **Willowbridge & Stonebridge Residents**

What: **SPRING FESTIVAL**

When: **April 5 (Saturday) 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

Where: **Clubhouse & Surrounding Areas**

Leah Protz, Spring Festival Organizer reports that Marsha's Petting Zoo will return with her cute and cuddly menagerie. There will also be inflatables and food, including pizza, cookies, chips, soft drinks and water (and maybe more, negotiations are still happening).

Steven McGinn, local

Willowbridge resident will also return as the DJ, providing the tunes and announcements. He recently expanded his mobile DJ business into a full time career adding event production (gsmeventsounds.com).

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Leah Protz @ lpmp0486@gmail.com

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
Peel, Inc. www.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
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
Pool Parties/Tags

Sweetwater Pool Co. 281-988-8480
Marquee Coordinator

Barbara Lallinger..... 281-890-8464
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

Yard of the Month Committee

Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Contact

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

Terese Joubran tmjoubran@gmail.com
Lost Pet Coordinator

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

Welcoming Committee

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Y'Barbo President
Julie Dubros Vice President
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.



SAVE A LIFE (Maybe Your Own!)

Would you recognize the signs and /or symptoms of a heart attack or stroke? Quick and early detection is the key to a successful recovery or even saving your life or that of a loved one. Minutes matter in both heart attacks and strokes. Knowing the signs and symptoms and what to do in the event that you or a loved one are experiencing them can make the difference.

Signs of a Heart Attack

- Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest. It lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away & returns.
- Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.
- Breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.
- As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting and back or jaw pain. Women may also have unexplained feelings of anxiety, fatigue and weakness, especially upon exertion.

Signs of a Stroke and TIAs

- Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known reason.

The acronym FAST is an easy way to check for stroke signs and symptoms.

- **F-FACE** Does one side of the face look uneven?
- **A-ARM** Does one arm drift down? Ask them to lift both arms.
- **S-SPEECH** Does their speech sound strange, slurred or not make sense.
- **T-TIME** Every second counts, call 911!

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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

THE SCHOOL ZONE

By Barbara Lallinger

The Gleason EL PTO has begun plans for its annual Spring Fund Raiser (as noted in last month's WillowTalk, usually the largest fundraiser of the year). The Carnival and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 2:00 – 7:00 pm. The event is open to the community. Proceeds from this event directly benefit the students and staff of Gleason EL.

The PTO is currently soliciting donations of auction items (products and services) and cash donations in the form of Sponsorship Donations. All donations are tax deductible. Sponsorship donations will be used to offset the cost of carnival rides and games.

Sponsorship levels range from Blue Level (\$100) to the Tiger Pride Level (\$1,000).

For questions about donating products or services to the Silent Auction and/or

Sponsorship Donations, please contact Kristah Slate at Kristah.Slate@yahoo.com or at (713) 882-7699.

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR CREDIT REPORT LATELY?

By Barbara Lallinger

It's a good idea and FREE to check your credit report (it is actually 3 reports compiled by 3 main credit bureaus: Equifax, TransUnion and Experian). All three look different but are compiled from the same basic information: your job history, past addresses, payment history (on time or late) credit card accounts, loans (including your mortgage) and tax liens. It's hard to believe but late fees from a library and unpaid parking tickets appear on these reports! The sum total of all of this is calculated to come up with your credit score. Mistakes are sometimes made on your credit report(s), lowering your score. A low credit score will prevent you from getting loans, especially mortgages. In reverse a good credit score generally affords you getting a better rate on loans and more favorable terms on credit cards, thus more money in your pocket.

Visit annualcreditreport.com and download all (3) reports. This official website was set up several years ago under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act and entitles you to your credit reports at no charge, once a year.

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TALKING TRASH

By: Barbara Lallinger

Once and for all, get rid of the half-used cans of paint in your garage and VHS tapes cluttering up your den. Visit 1800recycling.com; choose what you would like to recycle from categories such as automotive, household and hazardous. Enter your zip code and the site will give you a list of nearby drop-off locations. Want to get the directions over the phone? Call 1-800-RECYCLING (732-9253).

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

"Recycle Rita" wants you to know (or tell you again):

1. Recycling (1) aluminum can (soda, beer, etc.) will save enough energy to power a television for (3) hours. Put another way, recycle a 6-pack of aluminum cans every week, and save enough energy to power the same television for (936) hours. Recycled aluminum cans become new beverage cans, cookware, bike parts and tennis rackets, just to name a few. Steel cans (food) become new steel and may become filing cabinets, auto parts and appliances. For heavy loads such as house siding, gutters, etc., call a scrap metal company (see the bottom of this article).

2. Recycling (5) #1 plastic soda bottles yields enough material for

one square foot of carpet or fiberfill for (1) ski jacket. Plastic can become many new products such as beverage & shampoo bottles, fleece, pipes, fencing, deck planks and gutters.

3. Recycling just your Sunday newspaper each week keeps (4) trees alive per year and increases the earth's oxygen (even more if you have a weekly subscription!). Newspapers, magazines, cardboard, catalogues, telephone books, cereal boxes, mixed papers such as junk mail (including envelopes, no need to remove plastic windows) and stapled papers; once recycled, become new blank newsprint, insulation, boxes, animal bedding, etc.

4. Don't forget we can now recycle glass (unbroken). In its new form it becomes new food containers, landscaping pebbles and road surfacing (asphalt).

Coastal Metal Recycling is located at 14002 Hempstead Highway @ Tidwell. As pointed out in their online ad, metal is a sustainable resource and can be recycled many times. It is a full service metal recycling center that buys scrap metal for cash.

(Continued on Page 6)

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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

A NEW YEAR - NEW SCAMS

By Barbara Lallinger

During the week of February 3rd, news outlets announced two new scams to watch out for. The first involves a minimal charge to your credit card statement in the amount of \$9.74 or \$9.54. The feeling is a lot of consumers do not peruse their monthly statements in a detailed manner, looking only at high dollar charges for accuracy. The con artists come back later and run a larger charge through and many get paid. Remember you have only 60 days to notify your card company of an error (unless there are certain extenuating circumstances, check your card agreement). This is actually an old scam. It happened to me several years ago. My credit card company actually called and asked if I had recently charged \$3 and some odd cents at Rite-Aid Pharmacy. I told them "no" that we didn't have Rite-Aids in Texas, however I did use them in Louisiana and California, however, I had not

traveled to either state recently. They explained the scam to me and issued a new credit card.... all this for \$3 and something!

The second scam is actually a version of another old one where you receive a call from an unknown area code and if you answer you end up getting huge long distance charges (because they are transferred through a foreign country). Some also come from within the prison systems also amassing large fees. This particular scam shows an unknown (to you) area code (I believe the news said they only ring once and hang up, usually causing it to go to voice mail). When you call the number back an automatic charge of \$20 goes to you and \$8 for every minute you stay on the line. The con artists/scammers have it set up so where calls cannot be traced back and they use a different number for each and every call!

Trash (Continued from Page 5)

Coastal accepts public walk-ins and has an exclusive drive-through indoor facility where you can be quickly unloaded while being protected from Houston's extreme weather. Some personal items that they can accept are: copper, brass, radiators, A/C coils, copper wire, batteries, wheels/rims and appliances (visit their

website for a full list). Industrial pick-up is provided for their commercial and industrial accounts. Hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday and 9:00 am – 2:00 pm on Saturday. Visit them at Scrap@CoastalMetalRecycling.com or by phone: (713) 690-6767 or (713) 690-6777.



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SPRING FORWARD

**SUNDAY
MARCH 18TH**

Don't forget to set your clocks forward as Daylight Savings Time begins!

GRACIE GALVAN

Realtor and area resident for 18 years.

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The David Flory Team Presents **4 TIPS TO LASSO BUYERS**



Spruce Up

First impressions set the tone. Freshen up curb appeal by landscaping, adding flowers, mulching, cleaning gutters, and power washing.



Organize

Less is more. Clear out winter clothing from closets and go through kitchen cabinets removing expired foods. Buyers love storage!



Do Maintenance

A maintained home is more valuable. Service HVAC, water heaters, pools and non functional appliances.



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