



Volume 19

July 2014

No. 7

# MAY

## Yards OF THE Month

### 9427 PEARSALL



Marisa Diiorio and her father moved into the neighborhood 2 years ago. Mr. Diiorio has spent many hours on tending their yard and enjoys it (he was recently spotted replacing the wooden spacers in the sidewalk and driveway).

The care he has given to the yard brought it to the attention of the YOM committee.

### 9223 STONE PORCH



Deborah and Carl Taylor have lived in the neighborhood for the past 17 years. They raised their family here and have really enjoyed the area. Their children attended school in Cy-Fair ISD.

This is their first time to receive YOM and they are extremely excited!

# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Harris County Animal Control ..... 281-999-3191  
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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  
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Sweetwater Pool Co. .... 281-988-8480  
Marquee Coordinator  
Barbara Lallinger..... 281-890-8464  
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Soccer Field Reservations  
Terese Joubran ..... tmjoubran@gmail.com  
Lost Pet Coordinator  
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## 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  
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# TREES

## CHAPTER 1 Willow Trees

(Originally published in Oct. 1999 by Glen Telge)

Willowbridge, Willowlake and Willowbrook Mall all share the beautiful Willow tree for their namesake. One does not have to look far to observe Willow trees growing in Willowbridge. Weeping Willows are planted around our soccer field, around the pond at Waller Park and most noticeably at the entrance to Willowlake across West Road.

There are over 40 species of Willow in North America. Several that are common in our area are: (1) Common Weeping Willow - *Salix babylonica*, (2) Golden Weeping Willow - *Salix alba tristis*, (3) Corkscrew Willow - *Salix matsudana*, and (4) Coastal Plain Willow - *Salix caroliniana*.

The Common Weeping Willow is a deciduous tree with long, narrow leaves and long, loosely hanging, gracefully swaying branches that weep all the way to the ground if not pruned back. The Golden Weeping Willow is similar but its younger branches are bright yellow. Willows are typically found on “new lands” – water margins, ditches, streams, ponds, and they do well in heavy clay soil. Like the Maple trees in our area, Willow seldom reach maturity because they are very prone to borer attack after about 10 years of age. You may have already seen that some in the neighborhood have suddenly died.

(Continued on Page 9)



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# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## WILEY COYOTE??

By Barbara Lallinger



Are you a member of willowbridge.nextdoor.com? If so, you probably saw several emails posted regarding coyotes observed in Jersey Village. If not, (back in November) several sightings were reported such as: Lakeview Dr., Village Green Dr., in the field near the tennis courts, behind Jersey Village Baptist Church, along White Oak Bayou and on the golf course. A "nursing" female was also spotted during that month.

Coyotes have been in our area for many years. My neighbor spotted one in 1997 at the corner of BW8 and West Rd. (during land clearing for the Texaco). That summer I also

saw one on the JV side of the bayou when it was still rugged territory. With new development, we continue to push them from their natural habitats.

According to National Geographic, the coyote appears in the tales and traditions of Native Americans—usually as a very savvy and clever beast. Coyotes are members of the dog family (scientific name: *Canis latrans*—which means barking dog). They are also known as the American jackal, brush wolf and prairie wolf.

Normally they are not prone to attacking humans, however, there are documented cases of attacks, especially in California. They have actually colonized

cities like Los Angeles and are now found over most of North America. They particularly like Texas and Oklahoma.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

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## *Coyote (Continued from Page 5)*

Listed below are some coyote facts:

1. Usually gray or reddish-gray and about the size of a medium dog, have a pointed and bushy tail and are usually very lean looking.
2. They have a keen sense of smell (much better than most dogs) and very sharp hearing.
3. They can run more than 40 mph, jump tall fences and jump out long distances.
4. Are nocturnal and if seen during the day, are probably looking for food for their pups.
5. They will mate with domestic dogs (offspring are known as coydogs) but are not truly tameable.
6. They make many sounds to communicate (long howl, bark, yips and yelps).
7. Are very adaptable and eat what is available where they live. They are omnivorous (eats both animals and plants). This includes rabbits, voles, prairie dogs, small deer, mice, rats, snakes, lizards, ground squirrels, birds that nest on the ground, insects, frogs, birdseed, fruits, vegetables, garbage and unfortunately, small domestic pets. They will eat carrion

(dead meat), but prefer fresh meat. They tend to kill only what they can fit into their mouth and carry it to a safe place to eat. They may carry prey up to one (1) mile before eating.




JV Mayor, Rod Erskine, posted the following on 11/21. The city is aware of this issue and is in the process of selecting a contractor to assess the problem and deal with it – where are they coming from, how are they getting in and out of JV, how many are there, and most importantly, trapping them. I will keep you updated. There were many comments regarding the coyote's value (keeping the rat population down); cats should not be left out as they decimate our wild bird population; they were here first, we are encroaching on their native habitat; if you have small pets you should also worry about the hawks and owls in the village; one suggested that funds not be spent on the coyotes, instead on yards that have not been mowed for over a month; initiate a trap & release program; and just plain leave them alone!

I am not currently a member of this group. A friend/neighbor (wife of the coyote spotter where the Texaco now stands) forwarded the emails to me on May 17th, thinking

*(Continued on Page 7)*

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# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## *Coyote (Continued from Page 6)*

it might be an interesting article for the newsletter. As a longtime pet owner, I was more than interested, not so much for myself (my dog, georgi brown, weighs about 53 lbs. and would definitely try to take on the coyote...as she does most of the dogs in the neighborhood, even though she just turned 15 yrs. old.), but for owners of small pets. PLEASE do not let your small pets run off-leash on the bayou or in the neighborhood (this includes cats!). Coyotes can carry rabies and as noted above, can jump great distances. They can also dig under fences (good idea to reinforce weak spots and replace broken, loose and missing fence boards). Several pets have been reported missing in JV (and never found) and some were found mutilated.

I had already planned on putting this article in this issue and then an event occurred that made sure that I did. On Saturday, June 7, as georgi brown and I began our late afternoon walk, I noticed what appeared to be a pile of dead grass between my house and the one next door (the yard was mowed on Friday). My first thought was a bird's nest had fallen from an oak tree. Upon further inspection, I found short pieces of very dead, dry

gray grass, (2) feet about 3 inches long, fur, a white tail and part of a skull belonging to a rabbit. I know that we still have quite a few cats that run loose in the neighborhood; however, I personally don't think any of them could have taken down a rabbit of this size. We also still have loose dogs (mostly temporary escapees) and some that are abandoned (haven't seen any of these lately with the exception of a terrier mix,

with a "Benjy" look, about two weeks ago...didn't look like he could have done this either). I immediately thought of the coyotes in JV and how easy it is now for them to come to our neighborhood. I relayed this story to my yardman and he told me he had seen a coyote running through the neighborhood looking confused and apparently looking for an exit about a week ago! So...did Wiley or maybe Wilma Coyote come calling? I think so. The biggest giveaway? The dead grass, evidently pulled from the rabbit's burrow.

This article was not written to scare anyone (well maybe a little...to make one more cautious with their pets). Also, please be aware of your surroundings (all the time) but especially at dusk and dark when walking on our beautiful new trails around the bayou and retention ponds and any other surrounding areas.

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Anna, Judy, Amanda

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## PET SAFETY TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

By Sonia Moore, Lost Pet Coordinator

These tips are courtesy of the Jersey Village Police Department

1. Never leave your pet in the car. Although it may seem cool enough outside, the sun can raise the temperature inside your car to 120 degrees Fahrenheit in a matter of minutes, even with windows rolled down. If you need to run errands, leave your furry friends at home.

2. Be cautious on humid days. Humidity interferes with animal's ability to rid themselves of excess body heat. When we overheat, we sweat, and when the sweat dries, it takes excess heat with it. Our furry family members only perspire around their paws, which is not enough to cool their body. To rid themselves of excess heat, animals pant. Air moves through the nasal passages, which picks up excess heat from the body. As it is expelled through the mouth, the extra heat leaves along with it. Although this is a very efficient way to control body heat, it is severely limited in areas of high humidity or when the animal is in close quarters.

3. Water, water everywhere. Whether you're indoors or

out, both you and your pet need access to lots of fresh water during the summer, so check its' water bowl several times a day to be sure it's full. If you and your furry friend venture out for a walk, bring plenty of water for both of you.

4. Pets need sunscreen, too. Though all that fur helps protect it, your pet can get sunburned, particularly if it has light skin and fur. Sunburn in animals can cause problems similar to those of people, including pain, peeling and skin cancer. Keep your pet out of the sun between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. When you do go out, rub a bit of sun block on unprotected areas like the tips of ears, skin around lips and the tip of the nose.

5. Say NO to tangles. Keeping your pet well groomed will help its' hair to do what it was designed to do: protect it from the sun and insulate it from the heat. If it has extremely thick

(Continued on Page 8)

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# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## *Pet Safety (Continued from Page 7)*

hair or a lot of mats and tangles, its' fur may trap too much heat, so a good clipping may be in order.

6. Keep your pet leashed. It will keep it from getting lost, fighting other animals, and eating and drinking things that could make it sick. This tip isn't just for dogs—even cats can learn to walk on a leash if trained.

7. Watch out for antifreeze! Hot weather may tempt your pets to drink from puddles in the street or under your car, which may contain antifreeze and/or other chemicals. Antifreeze has a sweet taste that animals like and it's extremely TOXIC! When you're walking your pet, make sure it doesn't sneak a drink from the street or curb.

8. Make sure your pet doesn't overexert itself. Though exercise is an important part of keeping your pet at a healthy weight (which helps its' body stay cool), overdoing it can cause it to overheat. Keep walks to a gentle pace and make sure you take plenty of water. If it is panting a lot or seems exhausted, it's time to stop. Don't forget—if walking on concrete, its' paws will get very hot. If you stop to talk to a friend, move

your pet to the grass.

9. Take it easy on pets that can't deal with the heat. Elderly, very young and ill animals have a hard time regulating their body temperature, so make sure they stay cool and out of the sun on steamy summer days. Dogs with short (stub) noises, such as Pekingese, Pugs and Bulldogs have a hard time staying cool because they can't pant efficiently. Overweight dogs are also more prone to overheating because their extra layers of fat act as insulation, which traps heat in their bodies and restricts their breathing capabilities.

10. Bring them inside. Animals should not be left outside, unsupervised, on long hot days, even in the shade. As the sun moves, so does the shade throughout the afternoon and pets can become ill quickly if they overheat.

If you must leave your pet in the backyard, keep a close eye on it and bring inside when you can.

Keep an eye out for heatstroke. Heatstroke is a medical emergency. If you suspect a heatstroke, you must act quickly and calmly. Call your veterinarian immediately! Lower the pet's

*(Continued on Page 9)*

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## *Pet Safety (Continued from Page 8)*

temperature by applying towels soaked in cool water to the hairless areas of the body. Often the pet will respond after only a few minutes of cooling, only to falter again with its temperature soaring back up or falling to well below what is normal. With this in mind remember that it is imperative to get the animal to a vet immediately. Once your pet is in the vet's care, treatment may include further cooling techniques, intravenous fluid therapy to counter shock, or medication to prevent or reverse brain damage. Even with treatment, heatstroke can be fatal. The best cure is PREVENTION, and your pets are relying on you to keep them out of harm's way. Summer doesn't have to be fraught with peril—with ample precaution, both you and your pets can enjoy those long, hot dog days of summer.

### **Signs of Heatstroke**

- Panting · Staring · Anxious Expression
- High Fever · Vomiting · Refusal to Obey Commands
- Rapid Heartbeat · Collapse · Warm, Dry Skin

## *Trees (Continued from Page 3)*

The Corkscrew Willow or Dragon's Claw Willow is a bushy tree that has twisted, spiraling branches. Several young Corkscrew Willows were planted along the south edge of our soccer field. They tend to leaf out earlier than the Weeping Willows and often stay green until December. I suspect that the Willows growing in the



Willowlake wetlands area are Coastal Plain Willows as evidenced by their shorter branch structure.

The largest Common Weeping Willow tree on record in Texas is located in El Paso, TX and is 59 feet tall, 14 feet in circumference and has a 63 foot spread.

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# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## The Recipe Box:

### DOGSICLES

By Marge Thompson

#### SUPPLIES:

12 paper cups in 3-oz. size for small dogs, or  
8 paper cups in 5-oz. size for large dogs.

#### CHICKEN-SICLE INGREDIENTS:

- 1 quart chicken broth or water
- ½ pound chicken breast, thawed
- 1 garlic clove, peeled and finely minced

Put the chicken broth or water, chicken breast, and minced garlic in a large saucepan or soup pot. Boil until the chicken is cooked through and soft, about 20 mins.

Remove the pan from the heat. Carefully remove the chicken breast and cut it into very small pieces, shred it with two forks or process in a food processor. Return the chicken and juices to the pot. Allow to cool completely.

#### BLUEBERRY-SICLE INGREDIENTS:

- 1 T. flaxseed · 1 c. fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1 T. anise or fennel seed · ¼ c. water
- 24 oz. organic Greek, or goat milk yogurt · 1 T. honey (optional)

Put the flaxseed and anise or fennel seed into a blender. Blend until the seeds are ground.

1. Arrange paper cups in a shallow pan that will fit in your freezer. Carefully spoon or pour the Chicken-sicle or Blueberry-sicle mix into the cups, filling each cup about 3/4 full (fill just half full for very small dogs). Carefully place the tray in the freezer and allow to freeze completely overnight.

2. To serve, remove from the freezer and offer it to your dog, preferably outside, to minimize any mess. Peel off the paper cup and put the popsicle in your dog's bowl.

If your dog likes these dogsicles, try inventing more flavors of your own (yogurt with chopped apples and a dash of cinnamon, cooked turkey in broth with shredded carrots, over-ripe bananas and a spoonful of peanut butter blended with apple juice).



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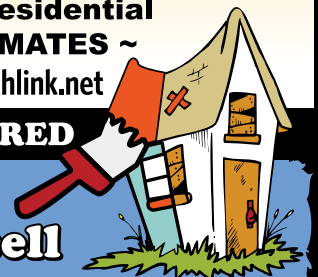
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