



WillowTalk

Willowbridge - Stonebridge Homeowners Association Newsletter
www.willowbridgehoa.com

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NOTICE—NO TRESPASSING

By: Barbara Lallinger

This article was originally printed in October 2012. It is being reprinted (with additional information) at the end of it.

*Notice – No Trespassing
 (Se Prohibe La Entrada)*

*Harris Co.
 Flood Control District right-of-way
 Unauthorized Persons
 Motorized Vehicles
 Firearms & Dumping Prohibited
 Violators will be
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 penal code, sec. 30.05 Misdemeanor
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 up to one year or both under
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 no oil or chemical disposal*

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WASTE DUMPING POLLUTES OUR WATERWAYS
www.clearwaterclearchoice.org

Are you guilty of trespassing? I think I am! Recently, while walking my dog on the “bayou” (near the Parmer Ct. easement) I noticed this sign on the “bayou”. It has some interesting content.

After reading the sign, my first thought was why is the content spaced so strangely and couldn't they make some of the important items more noticeable by correcting this spacing issue. My second thought was why pick up dog poop (biodegradable) in this natural area (it's not like everyone takes their dog there to do their business all of the time). However, most of my questions centered on the property owners that back up to this space and dump odds and ends over their fences. What really bothered me is you can tell who the culprits are by the trash found there: tree & bush trimmings, dead bushes (the same as can be seen over their fences); old fence boards, posts, contractor trash, etc. (right by their new fence); rocks, gravel, etc.; ETC., ETC., ETC. (Also, similar items spotted in the pipeline right-of-way). Do people really feel like this area is their own private dumping ground? Yes, some of these things are biodegradable (eventually) but they take much, much longer than my dog poop! If it was me, I think I would put the stuff at least a few houses down so that it wasn't so obvious that it belonged to me (just kidding, I would not dump in this area, I enjoy walking there too much ...when the grass isn't waist high!). And, to be honest, I rarely see dog poop on these walks (probably because the dogs prefer to go into the grass and bushes to do their business as opposed to depositing it in the middle of the dirt path, unlike what some owners are allowing their pets to do in the middle of our

Continued on Page 3

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 – WCA.....	281-368-8397
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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Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Contact	
Jennifer Y'Barbo	jhybarbo@subhou.com
Lost Pet Coordinator	
Sonia Moore	msrco@aol.com, 281-955-8068
Welcoming Committee	
Gracie Galvan	281-732-0009
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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 quarter (Jan, Apr, Jul, & Oct) 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.

STREET LIGHT OUT?

If you notice a street light out PLEASE report it to CenterPoint Energy. We pay for all of the street lights in our subdivision... every month...regardless if they are illuminated or not!! This is also a serious safety issue. To report an outage, follow these steps:

1. Dial (713) 207-2222.
2. Choose a language preference.
3. Select option "4" (for street light outages).
4. Provide the 6 digit number (located approximately 5 feet up the pole), street name and closest address.

Continued from Cover

sidewalks, but that's another article to come).

In October 2014 I was elected to the HOA board of directors and took it upon myself to be the board member in attendance at as many of the monthly W. Harris County MUD #11 meetings as possible. At the March meeting, as at most meetings, I was given a handout that had pictures of graffiti on some of the concrete walls at various retention ponds and a picture of oak leaves that had been dumped over a resident's fence. The presenter noted that this was not the only resident doing this but the most current example of it. My response was that they probably think that it's biodegradable and good for mulching. However, oak leaves take a long time to break down and it was noted that to keep the area looking good, workmen must be sent out to "clean up" any such items dumped over or placed outside the fence (ultimately costing us all for their extra work).

Enter year 2015 and we now have wonderful and beautifully landscaped walking, hiking, biking trails, pocket parks and dog parks instead of dirt paths and weeds. Many residents were afraid that the areas without paved walks would not get as much attention and not be mowed as often as the paved areas (used to be mowed only 3 – 4 times a year!). NOT SO! Everything is mowed each time.

This reprint is designed to remind residents that the property behind their fences does not belong to them; it belongs to the Flood Control District, is maintained by the MUD, and that dumping in this area is a MISDEMEANOR, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$4,000 or confinement in jail up to one year or both under the Clean Water Clear Choice program!!!



BIG WELCOME!

Panachali Family	-	Parmer CCT.
Bird Family	-	Ricaby
Rivera Family	-	Therrell St.
Tate Family	-	Bexar Dr.
Segura Family	-	Stoney Lake
Gaiennie Family	-	Palacios Ct.
Tan Family	-	Wheatland Dr.
Kumar Family	-	Palacios Ct.



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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

STOP!

...In the Name of Life!

What is red and white, shaped like an octagon and may save your life? A STOP sign! The most violated stop sign used to be at Willowbridge Park Blvd. and Bexar St. However, it appears that it is now Willowbridge Park Blvd. and Pearsall Drive!

Originating in Michigan in 1915, with black letters on a white background, a stop sign is a traffic sign to notify drivers that they must stop before proceeding. They are often used to control conflicting traffic movements at intersections which are not busy enough to justify the installation of a traffic signal. In the U.S. they are not intended for use as a "traffic calming" device; rather they are meant to be installed mainly for safety and/or to assign right-of-way for a certain direction. In the U.S., Canada and Mexico, stop signs are deployed as supposed safety measures in residential areas, near where children play or walk (such as schoolyards) or which experience frequent automobile accidents, making extra precautions necessary.

Many drivers think they only have to slow down, then proceed if they do not see any other traffic. The law specifies that at a junction where two or more traffic directions are controlled by STOP signs, generally the driver who arrives and stops first, continues first. If two or three drivers traveling in different directions stop simultaneously, generally the drivers on the left must yield the right-of-way to the driver on the far right. It is interesting to note that in all countries, the driver must come to a complete stop before entering a stop controlled intersection, even if no other vehicle or pedestrian is visible. However, some drivers don't come to a complete stop, their wheels never completely stop rolling. This is called a rolling stop and is illegal. If a stop line is marked on the pavement, they must stop before crossing the line. Our lines are marked but have faded with age, please be cognizant of this.

In our neighborhood, you will occasionally see a second type of stop sign. School buses are required by law to have a pivoting arm equipped with a stop sign. The sign stows flat on the left side of the bus, and is deployed by the driver while picking up or dropping off passengers. Unlike a normal sign, this one requires vehicles travelling in both directions to stop (unless separated by a median).

Stop signs are sometimes vandalized (ours have definitely been egged) or stolen as pranks. A fatal accident caused by the theft of a stop sign could result in manslaughter charges against the offender, if caught.

Don't forget...pedestrians have the right of way!

Pet Place

"Feral Felines"

There have been reports that our neighborhood is experiencing an influx of stray and/or feral cats in the past few months. Cats roam outside in most neighborhoods in the U. S. Some are pets whose owner(s) let or put them outside (many owners think it is ok to let their cats out if they have been spayed or neutered); however, it's not a good idea, unless you have a safe enclosure or are walking him or her on a harness and leash. Even pet cats who are spayed/neutered may cause conflicts between neighbors and injure or kill wildlife. When outside they also face dangers such as injury or death from being hit by a car, being harmed by another animal or person (a neighbor's cat was recently shot with a BB or pellet gun, requiring surgery), and they can acquire diseases and parasites.

Stray and feral cats are sometimes called "community" cats (some were once pets who are lost or abandoned). Community cats are different in that a stray is a pet who has been abandoned or lost, is used to contact with people, and is tame enough to be adopted. A feral cat is the offspring of stray or feral cats and is not accustomed to human contact. Stray, feral (and pet) cats may display "nuisance" behaviors such as: urinating, defecating and digging in someone's yard or garden, jumping on someone's car, and upsetting an owned cat. Additionally, they cause flea infestations, show visible suffering from dying kittens and injured adults, cause the death of wild animals who are cat's prey, emit frequent, loud noises as part of the fighting and mating behavior and unneutered males spray strong, foul smelling urine to mark their territory. Feral cats are usually too fearful to be handled or adopted. Strays may be reunited with their families or adopted into new homes, but feral cats will find it difficult or impossible to adapt to living as pets in close contact with people. But, that doesn't mean there aren't many things you can do to improve feral cats' health and quality of life.

Many people see a cat who seems homeless and start feeding the cat. Ideally, the person quickly does more to help the cat. If you are one of these people, please adhere to the Humane Society of the United States approach. If the cat is tame, the first step is to try to find the owner. If the owner can't be found, step two is to try to find a permanent home for the cat through a shelter, rescue or other means. If the cat is feral, unapproachable, and wary after several days of feeding, it's best to find out if there are any groups doing "trap-neuter-return" (TNR), a nonlethal strategy for reducing the number of community cats (feral and stray) and improving the quality of life for cats, wildlife and people. At its most basic, TNR involves: humanely trapping community cats, spaying or neutering them, vaccinating them against rabies, surgically removing the tip of one ear (a "tipped" ear is the universally recognized sign of a cat who has been spayed or neutered) and returning the cats to their home.

FIGHT TAILGATE THEFT

Gary Rodgers, HCSO (via Nextdoor)

Willowbridge/Stonebridge and surrounding neighborhoods are experiencing a rash of thefts of pickup truck tailgates. The thieves seem to be particularly fond of the GMC tailgates. Here are three quick and inexpensive ways to deter the thefts.

- Back the truck into the driveway and park it within 1 foot of a garage door or another vehicle in the driveway so the tailgate can't be opened all the way.
- Put a radiator hose clamp on the hinge of the tailgate with the slot in it so the tailgate can't be lifted out without spending a lot more time taking the clamp off from the underside.
- Lock the tailgate if it is equipped with a factory or add-on lock.
- Of course, the best prevention is to put it in the garage if at all possible.

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TALKING TRASH

“Every Little Bit Counts!”

A study and employee poll at MD Anderson (MDA) Hospital for fiscal year (FY) 2014 revealed the following:

Generated 9,410 tons of solid waste and recycled 22.7% of waste (about 2,140 tons). Generated 7,270 tons of trash (77.3% of solid waste didn't get recycled and it's the equivalent of 3,500 elephants!). Generated 2 pounds of trash per employee every day in FY2014. MDA could save \$300,000 a year if all employees would shut down idle computers, monitors and other office equipment on weekends.

The Employee Poll (Where do you fall short on recycling?) revealed:

- 25% I recycle my papers, but I generate too many.
- 15% I don't pay close attention to what's recyclable and what's not.
- 14% I recycle only when the bin's within arm's reach.
- 14% The trash can meets my needs just fine.

12% I recycle my water bottles, but I go through too many.

12% I don't always rinse off the food first.

8% Other

Their recycling goal for FY2015 (2,190 tons) will require recycling an additional 50 tons. All together that's enough to save 43,000 trees and 8,500 cubic yards of landfill space.

Realizing that we're not nearly as big as MDA and can't possibly generate that kind of recycling tonnage, I wonder what a similar poll would reveal about our recycling habits? Maybe we could adopt the old adage: “Every Little Bit Counts?” So, what's your excuse? We're provided with free recycling bins, WillowTalk has carried numerous articles on recycling (what you can, what you can't, do's and don'ts, etc.), the internet is full of recycling information and we already pay for it in our annual HOA assessment, regardless if you participate or not!



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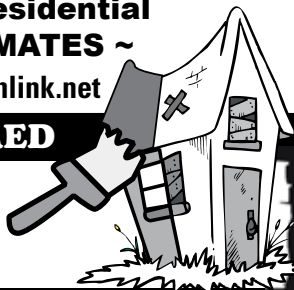
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