

Volume 20 July 2015 No. 7

# YARD OF THE MONTH



9727 THERRELL DR.

Pragma and Dhiru Patel were absolutely astounded when the Beautification Committee posted the Yard of the Month sign in their yard. The Patels moved to Willowbridge in July of 1999. They have one daughter, Neema, living with them and a grown son and family in Pearland. Both Pragma and Dhiru are engineering consultants. He works for Cameron International and she is a housewife, taking care of their consulting business from home. Dhiru's hobby is gardening and growing things from seed. You can't see most of his "real loves" as they are in the back yard, including a Gulmore tree (native to India, started from seed, about two years old that should bloom yellow blossoms in approximately two more years) and a lemon tree, also native to India that bears an egg shaped fruit. Also growing in the back yard: a pomegranate tree, guava tree, curry leaves, and several Althea bushes. And, if that's not enough, the side yard has a vegetable garden.





9414 Slate Stone Ct.

Equally surprised at being named recipients of Yard of the Month were Maria and Gabriel Garcia. The Garcias moved to Stonebridge in March, 2013. Gabriel is a native Houstonian and Maria says she claims to be also as she grew up in Houston. Prior to moving to our neighborhood, they lived in Portland, Oregon for ten years. They have grown children with grandchildren. Maria is controller at a natural gas company in the energy sector. Gabriel is a private tutor for mostly 9 and 10 year olds in the science arena, including biology and chemistry. His tutoring is mostly concentrated in the Katy area.

# QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY JULY 23 AT 7:00 PM

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# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

All Emergencies
Cy-Fair Hospital
Street Lights & Outages - CenterPoint Energy713-207-2222 CenterPoint Energy
CenterPoint Energy
Newsletter Publisher Peel, Inc
Peel, Incwww.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444 Advertisingadvertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444 Poison Control Center
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ATTO TE D
AT&T - Repair
Billing
Trash – WCA
Vacation Watch - Harris County District 5 281-290-2100
W. Harris County MUD #11281-807-9500
Willow Place Post Office
Willowbridge Websitewww.willowbridgehoa.com

# **ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY**

Beautification Committee
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Homeowners Association
Graham Mgmt - Tracy Graham
grahammanagement@sbcglobal.net
Clubhouse/Reservations
Adrienne DelGiorno
Pool Parties/Tags
Sweetwater Pool Co
Marquee Coordinator
Barbara Lallinger
Newsletter Coordinator
Barbara Lallinger & Rebecca Peters
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Security Coordinator
Julie Dubros
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Website Coordinator
Angela Doraywillowbridgehoa@live.com
Yard of the Month Committee
Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Contact
Jennifer Y'Barbojhybarbo@subhou.com
Lost Pet Coordinator
Sonia Moore msrco@aol.com, 281-955-8068
Welcoming Committee
Gracie Galvan
galvangracie@hotmail.com
gaivangiacic@notinan.com

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jennifer Y'Barbo	President
George Schaudel	.Secretary
Rebecca Peters	Treasurer
Brian Fisher	Director
Barbara Lallinger	Director

## HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners Association Inc Graham Mgmt
Tracy Graham
E-Mailgrahammanagement@sbcglobal.net
Fax
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.

#### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION**

Newsletter Article submission Deadline is 3rd of each month. Please give a 2 month advance notice.



# BIG WELCOME!

Bexar Dr. - Tate Family **Burleson Ct. - Anderson Family** Glascock Ln. - Cortes Family Parmer Ct. - Li-Lin Family San Patricio Ct. - Flaviani Family Slate Stone Ct. - Framer-Dillard Family Stone Porch - White-Boehnke Family



# ten-nis (noun)

A game in which two or two pair of players, equipped with rackets, drive a small, light elastic ball back and forth over a low net that divides the court in half. Recently, players have been noted playing soccer tennis (?) with soccer balls on the tennis court. Our courts were not made for this type of play and we are asking that the court only be used for the actual game of tennis as described above. Larger balls have the possibility of tearing the nets and sun screens.

When using the tennis courts, please be sure to clean up after yourself (our lawn maintenance crew does not do this). Following is some of the trash/items left behind: tennis canisters/lids; balls; tape (clear and white used for wrapping the racquet handles); juice/ soda cans, bottles, packages; energy bar/candy wrappers; banana peels; orange peels; clothing and cigarette/cigar butts.



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CHMS

# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

# **TALKING TRASH**

## Get Your Mind In the Gutter!!

We're used to hearing just the opposite. But in this case the "gutter" refers to the storm drains that are in the street. At times, many items of trash litters our streets and gutters in the form of fast food containers, napkins, bags, etc., aluminum and plastic drink/ juice containers (including very small liquor and wine bottles), newspapers, cigar/cigarette butts, etc. We would like to think that this is done by visitors and not residents of our nice neighborhood. Please remember that it is your responsibility to keep the curbs and storm drains by your property clean and clear of obstructions (we all have at least one curb)! We do not have street sweepers in our neighborhood. If you live near a storm drain, please keep the grates/openings clear of any debris such as trash in general, limbs, leaves/pine needles, children's toys/balls, etc. Free flowing drains help avoid flooding during heavy rains, such as those experienced in May. What a difference with all of the retention ponds we now have and what we experienced with Tropical Storm Allison! Please Remember That Under the Clean Water Clear Choice Act, It Is ILLEGAL To Purposely Discard Anything Other Than Clean Water Down These Drains.



# PET PLACE

### THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROCHIPS

If you are a member of Nextdoor Willowbridge, you undoubtedly have seen all of the posts for lost/found animals in the past few months. Some of these may be "dumped" strays but many are obviously cherished members of families.

A microchip is a tiny computer chip embedded with a one-of-a-kind identification number that identifies your pet as a member of your family. It is the only way to permanently identify your pet. The chip is so tiny (about the size of a grain of rice) that it fits into a hypodermic needle and is injected just like a vaccination, under the skin of your pet, where it remains for life. It is safe for all types of pets, including dogs, cats, horses, birds, reptiles and exotics. It is illegal for an experimental laboratory to buy a dog that is microchipped. All dogs from rescue groups are microchipped before adoption. Most rescues and vets use Avid and Home Again chips. There is also the Banfield Pet Hospital chip. The typical scanner will read both Avid and Home Again chips. Banfield chips require a different scanner and local shelters should have one. Chips are very inexpensive and worth every dollar spent to have your family member returned.

#### **FISH (POND)**

According to Nelson Water Gardens in Katy, summer is the most stressful time of the year for your fish. This is due to the fact that the amount of dissolved oxygen drops in warm water thus making it harder for the fish to breathe. Be sure to keep an eye on your pond, especially in the early mornings. If the fish are gasping for air, your pond has reached a critical point. Last summer Nelson published a Fish First Aid Kit. You may request one at:

#### WWW.NELSONWATERGARDENS.COM



# **STOLEN HOA PROPERTY**

On Saturday, May 2nd, we experienced an unusual theft in the neighborhood. No it wasn't huge so you never saw it on the security emails and it certainly did not require a Sheriff's report, yet it was disconcerting. Two signs were taken from the intersection of West Villa Ln. and Stone Porch Ln. Each announced events scheduled for Saturday (Pool Tag Pick Up and Spring Festival). The Pool Tag Pick Up signs were brand new and cost a little more than usual as they incorporated a slot on them to change out the days of the week. The HOA planned to use these for several years and will. If you know where these signs are, please return them.

They may simply be placed through the wrought iron fence at the clubhouse.

# **BASHANS PAINTING** & HOME REPAIR

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- HardiPlank Replacement
- Sheetrock Repair
- Cabinet Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Fence Repair/Replacement
- Custom Staining
- Gutter Repair & Replacement
- Crown Molding

- Wallpaper Removal
- Wood Replacement
- Interior Carpentry
- Wallpaper Removal & **Texture**
- Garage Floor Epoxy
- Roofing
- Faux Painting

#### **NO MONEY UP FRONT**

20 Years Experience · References Available

**Commercial/Residential** ~ FREE ESTIMATES ~

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# **HURRICANE** TRAVEL SEASON TIPS

By: Travel Guard Insurance

Being aware of hurricane season and what that means for your travel plans is important. Hurricane season is officially here again, running from June 1st to November 30th in the Atlantic, and from May 15th to November 30th in the Eastern Pacific. So what's in store for 2015? Researchers are predicting the 2015 hurricane season to be the most active season we've seen in the past three years.

To help prepare yourself during storm season (hurricane, tornado, severe thunderstorms), what precautions should you take when planning your summer travels?

#### **PLAN AHEAD**

Review your resort/hotel/vacation home's evacuation procedure and know where you need to go and how to get there in the event of a tropical storm, severe weather or tornado.

#### MONITOR WEATHER CONDITIONS

Pay attention to the daily weather forecast. Is there a tropical storm or severe weather brewing? If the words "evacuation" or "take cover" are mentioned, take it seriously and get to a shelter. If you have time to evacuate before a forecasted storm hits, or need assistance departing as soon as possible in the aftermath of a storm, call Travel Guard for assistance in getting home safely.

#### CONTACT FAMILY

If you are evacuated to an emergency shelter, contact family or friends at home to let them know your status/location and what's going on. Chances are your loved ones have heard about the inclement weather and are wondering if you are ok. It is likely that cell phone networks will be overloaded with people trying to reach family members but a text message may get through if you're having trouble making a call.

#### **GET UPDATES**

Bring a small radio or smart phone with you to the shelter or basement to listen for weather updates or when the "all clear" is given. You may want to purchase a battery-operated charger so you can keep your phone charged even if the power goes out. These potentially life-saving apps might be worth downloading before you go, too.

#### **DRIVE SAFELY**

If you are going on a road trip be sure to know what to do if you encounter severe weather. Don't try to out-drive a tornado; seek shelter in the nearest building. If there is no building nearby get out of the car and lie in a ditch. If you encounter flooding while driving, don't try to drive through the flooded roadways - turn around and find another path. Knowing how to react to severe weather is imperative. More severe weather driving safety tips are available here.

#### **PACKTRAVEL INSURANCE**

Remember to pack a travel insurance plan through Travel Guard for 24/7 travel assistance in re-booking flights out of an area or for other types of emergency travel assistance. Travel insurance plans can also provide coverage for medical expenses and emergency medical evacuations, as well as reimbursement for your pre-paid, non-refundable trip costs in the event that inclement weather causes the cancellation or interruption of your travel.

Always read the terms of your policy before purchasing to make sure the plan you've selected includes the weather coverage you're seeking, as coverage varies by plan. (Need assistance? Call our World Service Center anytime at 800.851.0048; they'll be glad to help you.)

# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

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**Not Available Online** 



### THE RECIPE BOX

(Better Homes & Gardens)

**SPICE OF LIFE!** When substituting spices, start with half the amount the recipe calls

for (unless directed otherwise) and add to suit your taste.

<u>SPICE</u> <u>SUBSTITUTION</u>

Allspice, ground Ground cinnamon, nutmeg or cloves

Chili Powder Dash of bottled hot pepper sauce plus equal measures

Of ground oregano and cumin

Cloves, ground Ground allspice, cinnamon or nutmeg

Cumin, ground Chili powder

Mustard, dry 1 teaspoon 1 tablespoon yellow mustard

Paprika Cayenne pepper (just a dash..it's hotter than paprika!)

Cayenne Pepper, ground 2 to 3 drops bottled hot pepper sauce

1/8 teaspoon

**TASTY BLENDS**: Make your own seasonings, it's easier than you think!

MAKE THIS... FROM THIS...

Apple Pie Spice, 1 teaspoon ½ t. ground cinnamon, ¼ t. ground nutmeg,

1/8 t. ground allspice and a dash of ground ginger

Cajun Seasoning, 1 tablespoon ½ t. each: white pepper, garlic powder, onion powder,

ground red pepper, paprika and ground black pepper

Fresh Snipped Herbs ½ to 1 t. dried herbs

1 tablespoon

Poultry Seasoning, 1 teaspoon 3/4 t. dried sage and 1/4 t dried thyme

Pumpkin Pie Spice, 1 teaspoon ½ t. ground cinnamon, ¼ t. each: ground ginger and

ground allspice, 1/8 t. ground nutmeg

MISSING AN INGREDIENT? Before you make a mad dash to the supermarket, check

your pantry and this handy conversion chart.

<u>IF YOU DON'T HAVE...</u> <u>USE...</u>

Baking Powder, 1 teaspoon ½ t. cream of tartar plus ¼ t. baking soda

Balsamic Vinegar, 1 tablespoon 1 T. cider vinegar or red wine vinegar plus ½ t. sugar

Buttermilk, 1 cup 1 T. lemon juice or vinegar plus enough milk to make

1 cup (stir and let stand 5 minutes before using) or

1 cup plain yogurt

Flour (self-rising), 1 cup 1 cup all-purpose flour plus 1 t. baking powder,

½ t. salt and ¼ t. baking soda

Half & Half (or light cream) 1 T. melted butter or margarine plus enough

whole



# **STAYCATION**

## TIPS TO MAKE IT ALL YOU EVER WANTED





#### THE BEST CAMPGROUND

Grab yourself a tent or build a bed-sheet fort and let the ghost stories begin! Make sure you pack some goodies to snack on and let the memories make themselves!



#### "ROOM SERVICE"

Have it delivered! Whether it's a trip to China, a weekend to Italy or a vaca to Greece, look up some local food delivery and have a culinary adventure at home!



#### **HOME MOVIE FESTIVAL**

Be your own Cannes and create an in-home film festival! Pick a movie theme and a handful of favorite picks. If you can, rent a projector for a real theater experience.



#### **SPA DAY**

Use that master suite and take a load off. Check out your local health store for relaxing essential oils to add to that luxurious bubble bath.



### **UNPLUG. UNWIND.**

Plug it in and leave it behind. Put an "out-of-theoffice" on your e-mail. Just detach for a while. It's the simplest vacation to take.



**CONTACT THE FLORY TEAM!** 

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