

# WILLOW POINTE

Official Publication of the Willow Pointe Homeowners Association, Inc.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Scott Ward

### Plans for 2016

Some of the improvements you will be seeing in 2016 will begin with a major trimming of all the trees throughout in the common areas. Following this, we will be adding additional Jasmine flower beds along the Spine Roads to areas that are the most in need. We will also be looking into improvements in the playground area as well as further discussion about the addition of a community building in the pool/park area.

## A CELEBRATION OF Western Heritage

Every February since 1938 the nation's fourth largest city is transformed from a bustling metropolis to a down-home celebration of Western heritage. Decorative floats intermingle with thousands of men and women on horseback to fill the streets with hoof beats and marching bands. Enthusiastic Houstonians join out-of-town spectators to line the streets and sidewalks to be involved in one of Houston's most popular celebrations!

### SATURDAY, FEB. 27, 10 A.M. • PARADE ROUTE

- Begins at Bagby and Walker streets
- Walker Street to Travis Street, right on Travis
- Travis to Bell Street, right on Bell
- Bell to Louisiana Street, right on Louisiana
- Louisiana to Lamar Street, left on Lamar
- ends at Lamar and Bagby



## TIPS FOR KEEPING WARM

1. If it feels slightly chilly in your home, make sure all your windows, doors, garage doors and fireplace are closed and tightly sealed. Take a small blanket or towel, roll it up and wedge along the bottom of the door.
2. Close the blinds! It doesn't sound like much but it really helps keep the place warm.
3. You better make sure those pipes don't freeze by leaving a steady stream of water running throughout the night. If the water is only trickling out, there's a good chance there won't be enough pressure to keep the pipes from freezing!
4. Leave the cabinet doors under your sinks open. This will allow more warm air to circulate and reach the pipes below, which prevents freezing as well as de-thawing frozen pipes!
5. Turn off any unnecessary appliances or lights in rooms you're not occupying.
6. Layer, Layer, Layer! It's not about having the thickest jacket or what type of material it's made from, it's about layering. Wear gloves, even if you think you won't need them.
7. Don't forget your four-legged children! If it's too cold out for you, it's too cold out for them! Please make sure and bring all your pets indoors!
8. Drink something hot on your way to work or school.
9. Use God's gift to mankind, disposable hand warmers. You can put them in in your pockets, your gloves, even your shoes to give your toes a little extra warmth. Make sure to buy these in bulk, because they last for about ten to fifteen minutes.
10. While lighting up a fireplace, whether it's gas or wood, can make a room look warm and cozy, the flames don't generate enough radiant heat to warm up a room because the heat simply goes up and out of the chimney. Closing the damper when a fireplace is not in use is very important.
11. Try to keep something cooking in the home, this will provide extra heat, especially if you are cooking soups, chilies, or hot beverages to drink.
12. Heating blankets, fleece throws, down comforters and flannel sheets are all good bedding items to invest in to avoid cranking the heat at night.
13. The elderly or disabled should ask family, friends, or neighbors to visit once or twice daily.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Sheriff's Department.....	713-221-6000
Sheriff's Department (Business).....	281-290-2100
Fire Department (Non-Emergency).....	713-466-6161
Vacation Watch .....	281-290-2100
Poison Control Center .....	800-222-1222
Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
Commissioner, Precinct 4.....	281-353-8424
Willow Place Post Office .....	281-890-2392
Entex Gas.....	713-659-2111
Centerpoint Energy (Power Outages Only) ....	713-207-2222
WCA -	
Garbage & Recycle.....	281-368-8397
Recycle/Hazardous Waste Disposal.....	281-560-6200
West Harris County MUD.....	281-807-9500
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Please support the businesses that advertise in the Willow Pointe Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Willow Pointe residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the community newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

# Garden Party

## THE ANNUAL CRAPE MYRTLE MASSACRE

The Crape Myrtle Massacre is the over-pruning and wrong-season pruning of crapes all over Houston.

You've seen over-pruning ... people chop back crape myrtles to the knuckles each and every year, and new growth comes out like a "feather duster." And wrong-season pruning would mean November and December. Don't let "peer pressure" by neighbors and commercial gardening crews get to you.

Looking through all the horticultural research I could find, nowhere could I locate anything about trimming crapes in November or December. The reason is simple ... we don't have much of a winter. If you trim the crapes in the last two months of the year, and we get a warming trend in January or February, the trees might actually start putting on new growth. And that new growth will be incredibly susceptible to freezing weather should it come on the heels of a warm spell.

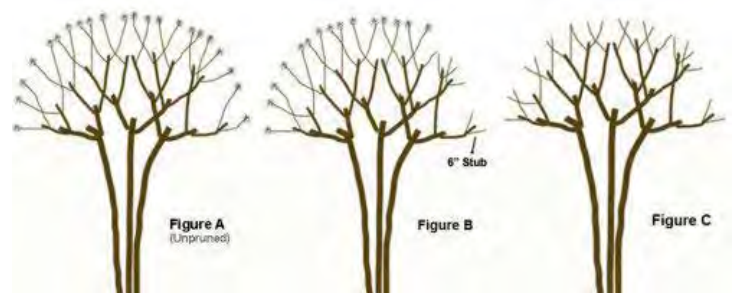
New growth will also tend to draw the cold right into the plant, causing needless damage to a tree that should be resting in dormancy.

So, say it with me: the best time to trim crapes is January through February. For years, I've suggested Valentine's Day is a great time to trim them, because at that time we're also trimming back our roses.

Now, as for how much to trim, it truly is up to you. Since crapes are so resilient, no matter how much or how little you trim really doesn't matter. From an aesthetic point of few, however, I personally don't like trimming back to the "knuckles." But you should at least trim back the expired seedpods (the dried bloom clusters) to insure better blooms in the coming year.

**VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW FOR TRIMMING SUGGESTIONS**

**CRAPE MYRTLE FARMS  
[WWW.CRAPEMYRTLES.COM/PRUNING.HTML](http://WWW.CRAPEMYRTLES.COM/PRUNING.HTML)**



## Life - On A Shoestring . . .

### TOP THREE TIPS TO BE REMEMBERED IN ANY SITUATION

#### Rule Number One: Must Have Clean Humor

Networking. This will either sound exciting to you or send a shudder up your spine. Whether you are a spouse wondering what in the world you are going to talk about at the next office get together outside of business or wondering how you can stand out in the crowd of other entrepreneurs, here are Rules to Successful Networking that may help smooth your nerves.

Nothing says stay away from me faster than a bad, tasteless joke, or worse, to have someone remember you for the wrong reasons. It is hard to find clean jokes to make everyone smile and for certain have someone else remember you as they repeat a clean joke when they get home or at the office the next day to get a few laughs.

So when "Want to hear a dirty joke?" has everyone leaning in.... say, "Actually, I do have one (Dramatic pause or have everyone lean in....) "White horse.....fell in the mud.....and got dirty! Argh. Argh. Say "Oh yes, you are groaning, but I'll bet you'll find yourself repeating it somewhere down the line!"

Laugh or Groan. Hey, someone will fall for this joke. Okay, Okay, you'll just have to know your audience, but when it was my job a long time ago to find good, clean jokes I really, really found out how hard it was to FIND a good, clean joke. At networking events, you'll have only a few minutes and all heads turn when you hear laughter, right? Here is one that I bet you'll repeat at least once!

#### Best Clean Joke

The local sheriff was looking for a deputy, so a young woman (or gentleman), went in to try out for the job. "Okay," the sheriff drawled. "What is 1 and 1?"

"Eleven," she/he replied. The sheriff thought to himself, "That's not what I meant, but that is right."

"What two days of the week start with the letter "T"?"

"Today and tomorrow."

He was again surprised that the young woman/man supplied a correct answer that he had never thought of himself.

"Now, listen carefully: Who killed Abraham Lincoln?"

The young woman (or gentleman) looked a little surprised herself/himself, then thought really hard for a minute and finally admitted, "I don't know."

"Well, why don't you go home and work on that one for a while?"

So, the young woman (or gentleman) excitedly met with her/his friends, and they just couldn't wait to hear the results of the interview.

The young woman (or gentleman) was excited beyond belief. "It went great! First day on the job and I'm already working on a murder case!"

At least start the chuckling yourself. Go ahead be bold and say a joke anyway. A clean joke.

#### Second Best Clean Joke ...

A jock and a geek were applying for the same job. The boss said, "Boys, you need to take a test before you can get this job."

So they took the test and the next day they came back to see who the boss chose. "Well, he said, "Both of you got the same score except I'm going to choose the geek."

The jock complained, "Don't you think that's unfair?"

"Well," the boss said, "Let me tell you what happened. Both of your papers were right all the way through until the last question came up, and the geek answered, "I don't know," and then when I looked at your paper, you answered,

"Me either!"

When the chuckling subsides, say "I only have two jokes". I am always looking for another one to trade up, has anyone heard something funny lately?

#### Rule Number Two: Be Interesting

To be remembered as someone who IS interesting, you'll have to BE interested in other people. Yes, it pays to have something to add to the conversation, and you'll be forearmed after reading the rules of Networking above. Have a few questions ready in case there is a pause in the conversation.

What keeps you occupied outside of your business? This question will help you gain common ground or something interesting to write about in your follow up note.

Have you seen any good movies lately? Did you see .....? See, this is where you will sound interesting.

That was terrible about .....Did you see it on the news this morning? What are your thoughts on ?

Getting other people to talk about themselves and their interests ultimately makes you more interesting.

Your mission: look in the newspaper, look at your local networking clubs and go make some new clients, friends or even dates! You don't have to be a Toastmaster to feel comfortable in new environments.

Oh, a Bonus Rule. Keep your nails nice. Keep your nails nice. Whether handing your business card over to your next big client or holding a drink (preferably soda), you'll be sending a message that you think about yourself as much as you'll care about them as an account.

#### Rule Number Three: Remember Names

Actually, Rule Number Three: Remember Names should be Rule Number One. Remembering names is crucial. Asking for a business card. Ask how they spell it. Except for the easy, easy names. Try "Is that Linda with an "i" or a "y"? Making up a rhyme, word association, movie association, actor association. Be deliberate and really slow to repeat their names in your head or at least in re-working the introduction. "My pleasure to meet you, Linda". You'll already be thinking of your next question, so please think slowly on remembering someone's name. As crazy as it sounds, try saying "Linda, Linda, Banana Fanna Bo Binda Fee Fi Bo Binda, Linda" (ahem, in your head, please). Anything works. ; You'll surely brighten someone's day and impress them with your Savant-mindedness. Don't use this if you wind up saying "My pleasure to meet you, Binda"? or worse "Bimba".

Linda Bates is a Freelance Writer who has been writing and volunteering in the Houston area community since BEFORE the word "Apple" actually meant fruit.

## Finding Connection

Do you remember your last first date? I know, for many of you that seems like it was eons ago! Take a minute and try to recall what went through your mind.

For most of us, there were thoughts of, "What if he doesn't think I'm pretty?" Or, "Will he think I'm smart enough? ...Funny? What if he thinks I'm boring?" Take your pick, and fill in the description. Male or female, old or young, we've all worried about these things at some point.

Every self-help book tells you that you need to love yourself before you can make a connection with another person. But how? How do you learn to find that connection within yourself so that you can learn to find connections with others?

For me, it was when I began working with horses. I learned a few simple, but profound, facts about horses. Horses don't judge, and are not impressed by a pretty face. They don't care about the car you drive, what your job is, or how much money you make. There are no concerns about race, sexuality, or religion. All a horse wants to know is, "Can I trust you to keep me safe?" and, "What's in it for me?"

These amazing creatures are incredibly similar to humans in that they instinctively crave the connection formed with other beings.

Through my journey into the world of Natural Horsemanship, I learned that horses are deeply intuitive creatures who can read you just by reading your body language and intent.

Working with these creatures teaches you so much about yourself.

For instance, working with a creature that weighs over 1000 lbs. makes you feel strong and confident. When a horse chooses to interact with you, you feel honored and special. When a horse offers you his trust, you feel love. And, if you mess up or make a mistake? Well, horses are the consummate teachers of forgiveness. They don't hold grudges or cast blame. They just move on. Really, there's a lesson in life everyone should learn.

Learning to love yourself is imperative to finding and establishing connections with others. Learning how to love yourself is a journey in itself. Begin your journey this month, and enjoy the ride.

Tara Chatterson works at Five Horses, LLC in Waller, Texas. To find out more about how horses can help you and your relationships, check out the natural horsemanship program, as well as the equine-assisted learning workshops provided here:

[WWW.FIVEHORSES.COM](http://WWW.FIVEHORSES.COM)

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# YARD OF THE MONTH

It has not yet begun to feel like winter yet, but it is just around the corner...and these beautiful lawns would make you think otherwise. Congratulations to the family at 9419 Willow Crossing Drive who received first place for the month. Also congratulations go to the family at 10127 Bayou Manor Lane who receive second place this month.



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## SUDOKU

9								
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View answers online at [www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)

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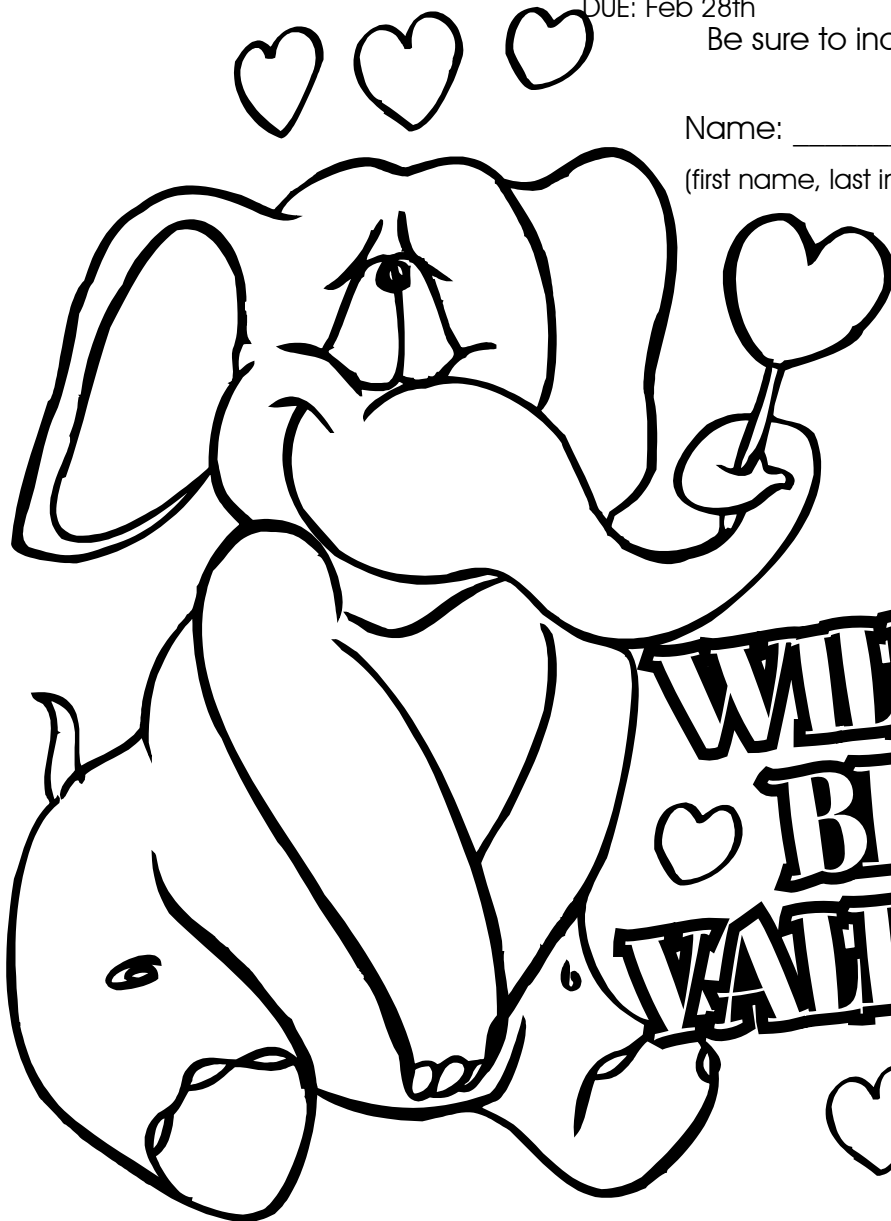
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(first name, last initial)

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