



QUAACK! QUACK, QUACK, QUACK!

MOTHER MUSCOVY (the Disillusioned Duck)

It appears that Mother Muscovy is a little mixed up. She has been sitting on eggs in a resident's flower pot on the front porch since right after Valentines. Unfortunately, they're not going to hatch. After talking to Marsha Harper, aka the "Duck Lady", previous resident of Winchester, a better understanding of the egg laying, hatching and incubation period for ducks was gained. According to Ms. Harper, once she gets her nest prepared and begins the egg laying process, she averages approximately 1 egg every other day. Mother Muscovy originally laid 14 eggs. As of the time this article went to publication, she is still sitting. One or two eggs have disappeared or had mishaps. The incubation process itself normally takes about a month. The eggs attract predators such as possums and snakes to nests whether they are off the ground in a flower pot or in your landscape bushes. A few years back, a Willow Lake resident had one nesting in their bushes, sitting on 22 eggs! To avoid future sad scenarios such as ours/Mother Muscovys, Ms. Harper recommends taking the eggs as soon as possible after the laying process, tossing them into the pond at Waller Park where the turtles and fish will eat them. As reported several months ago in WillowTalk, WHCMUD #11 (owner/maintainer of Waller Park), discourages residents from feeding the ducks as the park periodically becomes over-inhabited with ducks and they have to be removed. This is done as humanely as possible; however, please keep in mind that the state does allow companies in the removal business to destroy them if they can't relocate them.

To see Mother Muscovy in all of her splendor visit www.peelinc.com

WHISTLING AWAY THE TIME!

Mama, what am I? Am I a duck, a goose, a swan? Why little ducky you may be all 3! Have you noticed the strange looking ducks on

Wheatland? They have elegant bodies; with orange bills/beaks and legs; gray faces and necks; chestnut brown crowns, breasts and backs; coal black bellies and no tail feathers. These stately creatures are Black Bellied Whistling Ducks aka "tree ducks" and "Mexican Whistling Ducks". They are in the Anatidae family of ducks, geese and swans. Emitting high-pitched, piercing whistles, they roost, fly and feed in groups. Mating for life, they are attentive parents with both sexes incubating eggs and brooding young. Although elegant while on the ground, they arch their necks presenting a hunch-backed profile in flight. One big difference in these and the Muscovys: Black Bellied Whistling Ducks are a Federally Protected Species!! They can't be touched or relocated by the normal citizen.



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
Best Trash.....	281-313-2378
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

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Beautification Committee

Jennifer Y'Barbo	jhybarbo@att.net
Homeowners Association	713-334-8000
Graham Mgmt - Tracy Graham	
.....	grahammanagement@sbcglobal.net

Clubhouse/Reservations

Adrienne DelGiorno	713-334-8000
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Pool Parties/Tags

Sweetwater Pool Co.	281-988-8480
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Marquee Coordinator

Barbara Lallinger.....	281-890-8464
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Newsletter Coordinator

Barbara Lallinger & Krystina Cotton	
.....	willowbridgenews@gmail.com

Soccer Field Coordinator.....

Jay Guarino	jvguarino@hotmail.com
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Website Coordinator

Angela Doray.....	willowbridgehoa@live.com
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Yard of the Month Committee

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
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Welcoming Committee

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Fisher	President
Jennifer Y'Barbo	Secretary
Leah Protz	Treasurer
Barbara Lallinger	Director
Rebecca Peters	Director

HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners Association Inc. - Graham Mgmt	
Tracy Graham	713-334-8000
E-Mail	grahammanagement@sbcglobal.net
Fax	713-334-5055

2825 Wilcrest Dr., #600 Houston, Tx. 77042

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:

By Phone: During normal business hours (7 am – 7 pm)

- Call (713) 207-2222
- Give the Customer Service Representative the 6 digit pole number (located approximately 6 feet up the pole), the street name and closest address.
- Online (anytime): centerpointenergy.com

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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

TRANSPARENCY: What does it mean to our HOA?

Transparency is defined as being transparent or being able to see through something. It is a “buzz word” you hear a lot in business and government today. For HOA members it might be defined in the form of a question. Why did the Board of Director’s Quarterly Meeting held April 28th start 45 minutes earlier than normal?

The 2015 Legislative Sessions didn’t use the word transparency when creating new laws for how HOA’s meetings may be held but it’s pretty apparent that was their intention. If you’ve ever attended a Quarterly Board of Director’s Meeting or the Annual HOA Meeting held in October, you probably noticed that The Board’s Executive Committee met prior to members being allowed in. At these sessions, your board was going over such items as financial reports, past due reports, attorney actions as gleaned from Graham Management’s information and financial status of the HOA. Decisions needed to be made and action taken on resident’s none-payment of HOA Annual Assessments, their grass growing a foot high, peeling paint, non-compliant fences, etc. These issues are not public information until much later, therefore, meetings were held behind closed doors to protect the resident’s privacy.

BOTTOM LINE: HOA boards may not consider or vote on 15 different items unless done in an open meeting for which members have been provided 72 hours notice (same as meeting notice before). The 2015 sessions added 7 new rules to the existing 8 (most of which were handled at our annual meeting). Many of the new laws simply clarify and compliment laws that were enacted in the 2011 and 2013 Legislative Sessions. There are very few major changes that will substantially affect the way the board does business in the future. The biggest change members will see is AN EARLIER START TIME for the quarterly meetings where they will be allowed to attend what used to be the Executive Session. However, members present for that part of the meeting **WILL NOT RECEIVE THE PERSONAL AND/OR FINANCIAL INFORMATION** the board does (privacy issues). All discussion on members will be done by referring to an account number that has been designated for this purpose. Attendees at this session may not participate in these proceedings in any manner, ask questions or make comments, etc., unless the board member running the meeting asks for community input. The next quarterly meeting will be held Thursday, July 28th at 6:30 pm, unless otherwise notified on the marquee.

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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

WELCOME WAGON ROLLS AGAIN!

Although it's officially called the Welcome Committee it's been a while since our new neighbors were welcomed in WillowTalk. Whatever we call them, they and the board wish to express a big HOWDY and Welcome to the Neighborhood to our new neighbors:

Parmer Court	Wards
Pearsall Drive	Chaplins
Pearsall Drive	McCaigs
Pearsall Drive	Molinaris
Ricaby Drive	Diaz/Carvjal
Therrell Drive	Wilsons
Skipping Stone Lane	Huang
Shindler Circle	Crews
Wheatland Drive	Cordero/Trinh
Wheatland Drive	Ferrante
Wheatland Drive	Hildreth
Wheatland Drive	Upneja

WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

Sources: insects.about.com & GETRIDOFTHiNGS.com

Residents have recently reported crossing paths with very large Bumble Bees. Or so they thought, until they started noticing small piles of very fine sawdust beneath their fences and pergolas and perfectly shaped/drilled holes about the circumference of a yellow No. 2 pencil near or below the sawdust. This large bee is much larger than your typical honey bee, looks like a Bumble Bee with a predominantly black abdomen, and is more likely to be a Carpenter Bee (very similar in appearance to a Bumble Bee). Carpenter Bee infestation is usually indicated by mounds of sawdust on the ground and big black bees flying around (they do not sting). Listed below are ways to treat Carpenter Bees with and without insecticides.

WITH Insecticide: Apply a powder insecticide to each Carpenter Bee nest. Purchase a powder insecticide that includes Carpenter Bees in the list of target insects. Spread the dust in the nest, following the instructions on the packaging (most manufacturers recommend a puffer to dust the inside surface of the nest holes. Apply the chemicals at night, as the bees are less active then.

WITHOUT Insecticide: Lock the Carpenter Bees out of the nest. Fill the holes with wood filler or putty after the bees have gone so that they can't reoccupy the nest after rain or wind has dissipated the insecticide. You may also try agitating the nest and then vacuuming them out. This can only be accomplished when the nest is relatively new and only in the early evening when the bees have returned to the nest and are relatively slow.

TREAT THE AREA that had the nest. Apply paint, stain or varnish to the wood surrounding the nest, including as much of the nest itself as possible. This keeps the bees from returning to establish another nest in the same area. Ensure that all exposed wood on your structures has a coat of varnish or paint to discourage further nesting.

HONEY BEES: WE NEED THEM! They pollinate crops, fruit trees, flowers, etc. Try to save them. Contact the Bee Wrangler at thebeewrangler.com. The owner takes the bees alive, collects the honey and sells it.



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IN ARM'S REACH**



**LEARN
TO SWIM**



**WEAR
LIFE JACKETS**



**MULTIPLE BARRIERS
AROUND WATER**



**KEEP YOUR
HOME SAFER**



**CHECK WATER
SOURCES FIRST**



**PRACTICE DRAIN
SAFETY**



**BE SAFER IN
OPEN WATER**



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CPR**

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www.colinshope.org/quiz

PREVENT drowning



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Willowbridge - Stonebridge

Did You Know IRIS?

You should because then you would have been notified that your water was going to be turned off for approximately 30 minutes for maintenance to the system as I was via telephone (my preferred method of notification). The MUD is very close to completing this project (smart meters) in our neighborhood. In testing the validity of the system it was discovered that some of the meters computers are defective, therefore requiring a second one to be installed and water to be turned off again.

From WillowTalk – August 2015: WHCMUD #11 has implemented a new mass notification service, IRIS (Immediate Response Notification System). The IRIS system will be utilized for both emergency and non-emergency situations and allows authorized WHCMUD #11 officials to create and rapidly disseminate time-sensitive messages to every customer by landline telephone, cell phone, SMS text message and/or email addresses stored in the notification database. However, this database requires you, the customer, to log in and create and/or update your contact information. This can be completed through the secure link on the District Operator's web site: www.topswater.com.^{*} We know that keeping your information personal and secure is important, but we encourage you to provide as many points of contact as possible. We believe that the ability to contact you in a time of crisis is vital. Please

rest assured that we will not share any of your information from the database with anyone. The goal of the WHCMUD #11 is to be able to reach all customers quickly to keep you informed on issues that affect the community's safety and welfare. For example, we would inform you about boil water notices, drought water restrictions, water mainline breaks resulting in water service interruptions, and similar issues. The IRIS service is provided to WHCMUD #11 customers at no extra charge. If you have any questions related to this service or if you need assistance with adding your information to the database, please contact TOPS at (281) 807-9500 and a customer service representative will be happy to assist you. ^{*}HINTS: You will be asked for your local ID – this is your 20 digit MUD account number. You will also be asked for a password and to verify it. The password requires a minimum of 6 characters which includes at least (1) lowercase letter and (1) uppercase letter.

Please be patient as this system will make our water system tracking data much more detailed, early notification of problems will be sent to MUD and give us a more accurate accounting of water usage. For any problems, please call the MUD at the number listed above as the HOA Board and/or Graham Management is not involved in this process. The MUD should be able to answer your questions. If they can't, please contact Graham Management at (713) 334-8000.



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