



WILLOW POINTE

Official Publication of the Willow Pointe Homeowners Association, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Scott Ward

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your Homeowner's Association Board of Directors would like to wish you a Happy New Year. We hope this New Year finds you happy and healthy and we look forward to an exciting 2017.

PLANS FOR 2017

The Board has planned out some improvements for 2017. We will be adding a new play structure to the park/pool area and are currently reviewing several options. Additionally, we will be adding a second guard stand for the pool area to assist and improve lifeguard coverage. Along the Spine Roads, we will be adding a couple smaller Jasmine flower beds complete the project for those areas stiazzll in need.

Annual Assessment Reminder

All homeowners should have paid their annual assessment at this time. All assessments are due January 1st and are delinquent if not received thirty (30) days after the due date. All delinquent Owners will receive a notice requesting payment. An interest charge of ten percent (10%) will be posted to the Owners account, together with a \$35 administrative charge for the late letter, and an administrative fee of \$30 per month for each month the account remains unpaid.

As always, all homeowners who cannot pay the assessments by January 31st may setup a payment plan by contacting Randall Management and pay the assessment over a period of three months.

Willow Pointe Community Calendar

January 2017

January 2

CFISD Holiday

Landscape Committee Meeting

@ 6:30 pm

January 14

Walk the bayou and pick up trash

meet @ the Willow Crossing Bridge @ 8 am

January 16

Martin Luther King Day

CFISD Holiday

January 17

Board Meeting

@ 6:30 pm

January 31

**Last Day to Pay HOA Assessment
with no penalty**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Emergency | 911 |
| 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 |
| Jane Godwin @ Randall Management, Inc | |
| Voice Mail nights or week-ends | 713-728-1126 ext 11 |
| jgodwin@randallmanagement.com | |
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| Peel, Inc..... | advertising@PEELinc.com |
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HOMEOWNERS ASSOC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| President | Scott Ward | 2014 - 2017 |
| Secretary | Brenda Jackson | 2015 - 2018 |
| Treasurer | Steve Mueller | 2013 - 2016 |
| Director | Cynthia McDonald | 2015 - 2018 |
| Director | Angie Wilson | 2014 - 2017 |

Please contact us at wphoa.board@willowpointe.org if you have questions, comments or concerns.

ADVERTISING INFO

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. The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Harris County SHERIFF'S OFFICE Patrol Report SEPTEMBER 2016

| Category | No. |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Burglary/Habitat | 1 |
| Burglary/Motor vehicle | 1 |
| Criminal Mischief | 0 |
| Disturbance/Family | 0 |
| Disturbance/Loud Noise | 2 |
| Local Alarms | 6 |
| Suspicious Person | 0 |
| Traffic stop | 10 |
| Vehicle suspicious..... | 3 |

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YARD OF THE MONTH

With temperatures still above normal, the warmer weather has allowed so many lawns to keep looking good. Congratulations to the family at **9324 Willow Crossing Drive** who received first place for the month. Also congratulations go to the family at 9803 Willow Crossing Drive who receive second place this month.



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FUNGUS GNATS

Fungus gnats often become a problem in homes due to an overwatering problem. Since this time of year can bring poinsettias or other plants into the home, fungus gnats are a pest to watch for.

Fungus gnat adults are small, black, long-legged flies with long antennae. Most adults are about 1/16 an inch but some can get up to 1/2 an inch. They are weak fliers and generally remain near potted plants, growing media, foliage or leaf litter.

Larvae, or immatures, have a black head capsule and long whitish body without legs. They feed on organic matter such as mulch, compost, grass clippings, plant roots and fungi. When conditions are very moist, fungus gnat larvae can become abundant and may leave slime trails on media that looks similar to trails left by snails or slugs.

While these gnats are a nuisance they are fairly easy to manage.

Indoors, it is a good idea to use yellow sticky cards as a monitoring tool. Potato pieces may also be used as a monitoring tool for fungus gnats. To do this, imbed a peeled potato cube into media and inspect the underside of the potato and the media directly below it twice a week for fungus gnat larvae.

To manage fungus gnat populations, work on reducing excessively moist conditions. Avoid overwatering and make sure that there is good drainage. The surface of container soil should be allowed to dry before watering again.

If using compost, make sure that items have been fully composted. Compost piles should be turned regularly and kept away from doors or windows. Inspect all doors, windows, vents and screens for a good seal to reduce the number of gnats that may enter a structure.

Bacillus thuringiensis var. *israelensis* or the nematode *Steinernema feltiae* can be applied in containers to control larvae. Either spray on the media or apply as a soil drench. Biologicals work best when they are applied early in an infestation. If a population is already large, they may not provide the control desired.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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NEW YEAR TRIVIA

“Happy New Year!” That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year’s Day in modern America was not always January 1.

ANCIENT NEW YEARS: The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring). The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary. The Babylonian New Year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year’s Eve festivities pale in comparison. The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But changes continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the New Year.

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS: Traditions of the season include the making of New Year’s resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian’s most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment. The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their God of Wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that God as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

AULD LANG SYNE: The song, “Auld Lang Syne,” is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the New Year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700’s, it was first published in 1796 after Burns’ death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, “Auld Lang Syne” literally means “old long ago,” or simply, “the good old days.”



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TENNIS TIPS *By USPTA/PTR Master Professional Polo Tennis and Fitness Club*

"How to execute The Forehand Lob"



In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit the forehand groundstroke, the two-handed backhand, the one-handed backhand, the forehand volley, the two-handed backhand volley, the serve, the forehand half-volley, the one-handed backhand volley, the overhead "smash", the forehand service return, the backhand service return, the forehand high volley approach shot, the two-handed high volley approach shot and the one-handed high volley approach shot.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute the Forehand Lob. This shot is used when a player is forced to retrieve a ball that is hit deep and the opponent is either charging to the net or staying far back. The player hitting the lob is looking for "air time" to regain balance and court space. This ball should be hit high enough so the players at the net cannot reach and "slam" the ball down, or force the opponent at the base line to retrieve back. In the illustrations, "Suzie" Foster, Member of the Polo Tennis and Fitness Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Suzie is forced deep into the court and realizes that she must hit a defensive lob, she pivots to the right and gets her racket back early. Notice that the head of the racket is

low and her left arm is up in front to keep her balance. Her eyes are focused on the path of the ball and her weight is in her right foot.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: Suzie is now ready to hit the ball. Her eyes are now on the point of contact and the face of the racket is tilted at a 45-degree angle to create height and depth on her lob. Her goal is to keep her head still and not start looking up to her opponent or to the other side of the court.

Step 3: The Follow Through: The success of a deep lob is the follow through. Suzie's wrist is still "laid back" and her shoulder is lifting the racket above her head. Her right arm is still in front of her to allow maximum balance.

Step 4: The Shuffle Back: Once Suzie finishes the stroke, her goal is to either move forward toward the net to hit an overhead, or to shuffle back to the middle of the court to drive the next ball back to the opponent.

*Look in the next Newsletter for:
How to execute
"The Two-Handed Backhand Lob"*

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