

DON'T FEED THE DUCKS!!!



On Monday, May 8, Graham Management received an email from a resident alerting them to a sad situation at Waller Park. It was reported that ducks were dead in the water and on the sidewalks.*

First, a little history: Waller Park has belonged to West Harris County MUD #11 for several years now. The MUD developed the park into a pleasant place to stroll, have a picnic lunch and to watch the wildlife (ducks, squirrels, birds, fish, turtles, bats and a

giant blue Heron). Included in the park's revival was: replacement of all homeowner bulkheads, replacement of the standing platforms and bridges, installed metal picnic tables with seats, repaired the fountains, cleaned out the dead brush, trees and poison oak/ivy, landscaped the area (which was non-existent for the most part), installed an irrigation system, installed doggy doo stations and installation of a ramp for easier access for people with disabilities/mobility issues. All to the tune of \$500,000!

Over the years the ducks have come and gone. Many residents have a love/hate relationship with them. The duck population has once again become a problem and the park can't sustain the numbers. Numerous residents have reported to Graham Management, the MUD and several board members that the ducks are advancing up Wheatland and Willowbridge Park Blvd., towards West Road, leaving presents of poop on sidewalks, driveways and lawns while destroying plants and vegetation in their wake. In late April it was reported that they had reached the 9600 block of Willowbridge Park Blvd. The MUD is diligently working to solve the problem.

In the past, they have been humanely captured and re-homed by a professional. The MUD hopes to capture and have the ducks re-homed again. It is not an easy task. This effort covers all ducks with the exception of the Mexican Black Bellied Whistling Ducks which are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Protected Species (10.13 List). This particular duck is recognizable by its black belly, short tail feathers, bright orange beak and its flight pattern. The full text of birds protected by federal law may be seen under the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Sport Birds Protected by Federal Law. This list includes the Black-bellied Tree Duck aka Fulvous Tree Duck. Please note that it DOES NOT cover the Muscovy ducks, the common brown duck or the white ducks found at Waller Park.

What can you do as a homeowner to help?

- 1. PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE DUCKS!!!**
- 2. DO NOT ADD TO THE PROBLEM** by introducing pet ducks to the park. Yes, they're cute as ducklings and yes, we know it seemed like a good idea to get them for the grandchildren at Easter so they could look at and play with them when they come to visit. Please remember Waller Park does not belong to the HOA or individual homeowners and these ducks are subject to removal from the park.
- 3. IF YOU FIND DUCK EGGS**, throw them into the water for the fish and turtles to eat (natural birth control).
- 4. DRIVE CAREFULLY** to avoid running over them.

*Back to the sad story. Lake Management was dispatched to assess the May 8th reports. There were no dead ducks found on the sidewalks or any indication that there had been any. ONE dead duck and one small turtle were found in the water. However, two baby Giant Blue Herons were found in a trash can. Decomposition indicated that they had possibly been there for a while. Have you seen the Giant Blue heron that is commonly seen in the park? It stands approximately 3 feet tall and is gorgeous, probably the parent

(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 |
| 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@gmail.com |
| Homeowners Association | 713-334-8000 |
| Graham Mgmt - Mandi Moody | |
| | grahammanagement@sbcglobal.net |

Clubhouse Reservations

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Amy Conley..... | 713-334-8000 |
| Pool Parties | |
| Amy Conley..... | 713-334-8000 |

Marquee Coordinator

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Barbara Lallinger..... | blallinger@hotmail.com |
|------------------------|------------------------|

Newsletter Coordinator

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

Soccer Field Coordinator

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Jay Guarino | jvguarino@hotmail.com |
| Website Coordinator | |

| | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| | willowbridgehoa@live.com |
|-------|--------------------------|

Yard of the Month Committee

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Contact | |
| Jennifer Y'Barbo | jhybarbo@gmail.com |

Lost Pet Coordinator

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sonia Moore | msrco@aol.com, 281-955-8068 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|

Welcoming Committee

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

Tennis Coordinator

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Cory Fein..... | coryfein@yahoo.com |
|----------------|--------------------|

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Jennifer Y'Barbo | President |
| Barbara Lallinger | Secretary |
| Ryan Lovell | Treasurer |
| Rebecca Peters..... | Director |
| Thomas Wilson | Director |

HOA INFORMATION

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Willowbridge Homeowners Association Inc. - Graham Mgmt | |
| Mandi Moody..... | 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 4th Thursday of each quarter (January, April, July & October) at 6:00 pm at the clubhouse.

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.

(Continued from Cover)

of the babies. Who would want to kill such stately creatures? The Giant Blue Heron is a migratory bird and also a federally protected species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, under Fish and Game Code 3513.

The homeowner reported that they had heard teens making noises late that night. If something like this happens again, PLEASE call the Sheriff's Department at 713.221.6000. Report that there are teenagers in the park, Trespassing after hours, possibly performing acts of vandalism and torturing and/or killing federally protected birds. Don't forget the MUD pays for our security.

It is not known if this was done by neighborhood teenagers or from outsiders. As a MUD owned facility, Waller Park is open to others. Please advise your children of this atrocity. If caught killing the wildlife, they will be prosecuted under the Criminal Trespass Laws, possibly for Vandalism and any other laws applicable to the act.

CORRECTION:

Pool Schedule

May 31 – August 27

September 3 (Saturday) 10:30 am – 8:30 pm

September 4 (Sunday) 12 noon – 8:00 pm

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Summer Sun Safety Tips

- 1oz. of sunscreen should be applied to entire body
- Only broad-spectrum SPF 15+ should be used
- Limit your time in the sun from 10am-4pm
- You still need sunscreen on a cloudy day



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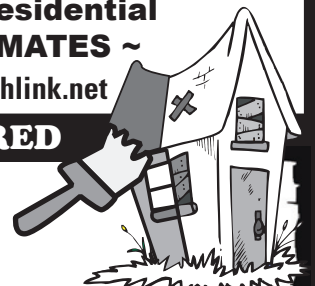
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FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS FOR PETS

By ASPCA

For many people, nothing beats lounging in the back yard on a holiday with good friends. While it may seem like a great idea to reward your pet with scraps from the grill and bringing him/her along to watch fireworks, in reality some festive foods and activities can be potentially hazardous. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center offers the following tips:

- **NEVER** leave alcoholic drinks unattended where pets can reach them. They have the potential to poison pets. If ingested, the animal could go into a coma. Death from respiratory failure is also a possibility in some cases.
- **DO NOT** apply any sunscreen or insect repellent product to your pet that is not labeled specifically for use on animals. Ingestion of sunscreen products can result in drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. The misuse of insect repellent that contains DEET can lead to neurological problems.
- **ALWAYS** keep matches and lighter fluid out of your pet's reach. Certain types of matches contain chlorates, which could potentially damage blood cells, resulting in difficulty in breathing or even kidney disease in severe cases. Lighter fluid can be irritating to skin, and if digested can produce gastrointestinal irritation and central nervous system depression. If lighter fluid is inhaled, aspiration pneumonia and breathing problems can develop.
- **KEEP** your pets on their normal diet. Any change even for one meal, can give your pet severe indigestion and diarrhea. This is particularly true in older animals that have more delicate digestive systems and nutritional requirements. And – keep in mind foods such as onions, chocolate, coffee, avocado, grapes, raisins, salt and yeast dough can all be potentially toxic to companion animals. Please visit our People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets page for more information.
- **DO NOT** put glow jewelry on your pets or let them play with it. While the luminescent substance contained in these products is not highly toxic, excessive drooling and gastrointestinal irritation could still result from ingestions and intestinal blockage could occur from swallowing large pieces of the plastic containers. Keep citronella candles, insect coils and tiki torch oil products out of reach. Ingestion can produce stomach irritation and possibly even central nervous system depression. If inhaled, the oils could cause aspiration pneumonia in pets.
- **NEVER** use fireworks around pets! While exposure to lit fireworks can potentially result in severe burns and/or trauma to the face and paws of curious pets, even unlit fireworks can pose a danger. Many types of fireworks contain potentially toxic substances, including potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals.
- **LOUD** crowding fireworks displays are no fun for pets that can become frightened or disoriented by the sound. Please

resist the urge to take them to Independence Day festivities and opt instead to keep them safe from noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape proof area at home.

- **BE PREPARED** in the event that your pet does escape by downloading the ASPCA App. You'll receive a personalized missing pet plan recovery kit, including step-by-step instructions on how to search for a lost animal in a variety of circumstances. And keep your pet's ID up to date. It's a good idea for all of your animal companions, even indoor-only pets to always wear a collar with an ID tag that includes your name, current phone number and any other relevant contact information. July 1st is National ID Your Pet Day, which serves as an annual checkup to make sure your pet's identification tags and microchip information is up to date.

PROFILES IN VOLUNTEERISM

RYAN LOVELL was elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual HOA Meeting held October 13, 2016. He and his wife Michele (COO of the Lovell Home), have been residents of Willowbridge since 2009. Son, Ryder and daughter, Makenzie round out their family.

Ryan is Business Development Director for Audubon Engineering, which provides full service engineering; design and related field services to the oil and gas industry from the well pad to the final point of sale. His VOLUNTEER activities include Cub Scouts, kid's sports (football, soccer, basketball), Pipeliner's Association of Houston, Marine Technology Society and other industry related associations.

THOMAS WILSON was elected to the Board of Director's Quarterly Meeting, held April 27, 2017. He will complete Leah Protz's term ending October 2018.

Thomas, wife Lillian and daughter, Lisa have been residents of Willowbridge for 24 years. He is a legal practitioner, educator, business lecturer and trainer. An avid walker and jogger throughout our community, you've probably seen him smiling and greeting people as he runs his course.

Serving as a board member and executive committee member of various corporate, banking, hospital boards, profit and non-profit organizations and community associations over the years has certainly prepared Thomas for serving on our board. He has received various leadership awards in naval leadership, education and business. He says he looks forward to assisting in maintaining the high standards of our community.

TEXTING AND CELL PHONE USE DURING DRIVING

*By the National Highway Safety Administration
(edited for space)*

In 2014, 3,179 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver. One of the most alarming and widespread forms of distracted driving is cell phone usage. According to a study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI), sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 5 seconds, the equivalent of driving blind at 55-mph for the length of an entire football field. And a 2014 special article in the New England Journal of Medicine found that the risk of a crash or near-crash among novice drivers increased with the performance of many secondary tasks, including texting and dialing cell phones.

Text messaging is of heightened concern because it combines three types of distraction – visual, manual and cognitive. In other words, texting involves taking your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, and your mind off the task of driving.

NHTSA's message is simple – “One Text or Call Could Wreck it All.” Legislation is being passed across the nation to discourage distracted driving. We hope drivers get the message loud and clear.

So the next time you are pressed for time, and it seems like multitasking in the car is the best decision, remember those 3,179 lives that were taken because someone decided they could do two things at once. A text or call is not worth your life, or anyone else's.

**ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD
WRECK
IT ALL**

GO **GREEN**
GO **PAPERLESS**



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Sidewalk Seesaw: Part 5

By the time you are reading this article, the sidewalks across from Gleason EL, starting at the Willowbridge Clubhouse parking lot to Stone Castle Dr. (Stonebridge entrance) should be new. At the Quarterly Board Meeting, held April 27, the board voted to take out another tree and totally demo and replace the (11) slabs in that section of the sidewalk, to avoid potential tripping hazards.

When planting or replacing trees in your yard near your sidewalk or on the easement between the street curb and your sidewalk, please ask your landscaper to consider long-term root and trunk growth and the potential damage to sidewalks and/or street curbs.

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