



Volume 23

July 2018

No. 7

LUV YA BLUE!

If you've been to the pool lately or even driven by you probably noticed that the water is green. Like the neighborhood in general, everything is aging. Our pool and a lot of the equipment that keeps it running is 26 years old. Although the water is not the pretty blue we're used to it has been deemed safe for swimming. The lifeguards test the water every hour to ascertain that it remains that way throughout the day. Our new pool company has been working diligently to determine what is causing the problem and have recently identified the issues. Yes, the water has turned green 2 years in a row and ironically it happened at the very same time last year. On Friday, June 8, the board met with the owner of the pool company and discussed options for repair and returning the water to blue. There are issues with the pumps, filters and circulation in general which will require ordering custom made parts which will take a while. Once received the repair should take 2 – 3 days which will encompass Monday, our normal cleaning day, putting the pool out of service for 2 days max if repairs go as expected. In the meantime, chemicals are being added and different processes applied to hopefully restore some of its clarity. For issues with the pool, or any other maintenance items of HOA facilities, contact Mandi Branam at Graham Management: mbranam@grahammanagementhouston.com.

E-BLASTS! E-BLASTS!... GET YOUR E-BLASTS HERE!

Is trash coming today? If not, will it be picked up tomorrow? Who are those strange guys digging in my back yard? I lost my HOA meeting notice, when is the next one? Find out answers to these types of questions and receive more timely alerts by signing up for e-blasts from Willowbridge HOA by completing the Contact Information Sheet found at willowbridgehoa.com on the cover page.

WHY DID MY MUD BILL INCREASE?

(UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER BILL)

In response to outcries on the recent (April) increase in our MUD bills, WillowTalk reached out to Carey Johnson, President of West Harris County MUD #11 (WHCMUD #11) with the question. Mr. Johnson's reply follows.

The purpose of a Municipal Utility District (MUD) is to provide water, sewage, drainage, and other services within the MUD boundaries. The MUD is funded by taxes and usage fees charged to both residential and commercial customers. This revenue is used to build and maintain infrastructure – the water storage tanks, treatment plants, sewage treatment plants and underground pipes that deliver water and to pay for the workers who provide you with water service day and night. WHCMUD #11 utilizes water wells to provide water to the district.

The North Harris County Regional Water Authority (NHCRWA) was created by the 76th Texas Legislature and their primary assignment is to develop and implement a strategy for complying with the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District's Regulatory Plan that requires a reduction in groundwater usage to no more than 20 percent of total water demand by the year 2030. Since the Authority is not a taxing entity, funding for our future water supply and the infrastructure is paid for by imposing groundwater pumping fees to all users within their boundaries.

The NHCRWA is responsible for obtaining surface water rights, collecting the water, treating it and distributing it to the users within their boundaries. They are currently building infrastructure to accomplish these objectives.

There are three (3) different charges on your water bill. They are broken down by water usage, sewer fees and Regional Water Authority (RWA) Pumping Fees. When totaled, this gives you your total amount due.

WATER – On your bill, you will find the readings we recorded from your smart meter previously and currently. You will also see how many gallons of water you used during that cycle. Water Rate in Gallons:

(Continued on Page 3)

Willowbridge - Stonebridge

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

All Emergencies.....	911
AT&T - Billing	800-585-7928
Repair	800-246-8464
CenterPoint Energy	713-659-2111
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-890-4285
Harris County Animal Control	281-999-3191
Harris County Flood Control.....	713-684-4000
Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO)	713-221-6000
Newsletter Publisher - Peel, Inc.	888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com
Website	www.PEELinc.com
Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
Reliant/NRG.....	713-207-7777
Trash - Best Trash	281-313-2378
Vacation Watch (to place) - HCSO Pct. 4	281-290-2100
W. Harris County MUD #11	281-807-9500
(Tops Water Management)	
Willow Place Post Office	281-890-2392

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Amenities Access Card.....	Request at	access@grahammanagementhouston.com
Beautification Committee.....	Open Position	
Clubhouse Reservations and Pool Parties.....		
Mandi Branam.....		mbranam@grahammanagementhouston.com
Lost Pet Coordinator		
Sonia Moore.....		msrco@aol.com
Marquee Coordinator		
Barbara Lallinger.....		blallinger@hotmail.com
Newsletter Coordinator		
Barbara Lallinger & Krystina Cotton.....		willowbridgenews@gmail.com
Soccer Field Coordinator		
Jay Guarino.....		jvguarino@hotmail.com
Tennis Coordinator		
Cory Fein.....		coryfein@yahoo.com
Website Coordinator.....		willowbridgehoa@live.com
Welcoming Committee		
Gracie Galvan.....		galvangracie@hotmail.com
Yard of the Month Committee		
Nominate your favorite.....		willowbridgehoa.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Wilson	President
Ryan Lovell	Vice President
Barbara Lallinger	Secretary
Candyce Ward.....	Treasurer
David Smith.....	Director

HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners Association Inc. - Graham Mgmt
Mandi Branam..... 713-334-8000
E-Mail mbranam@grahammanagementhouston.com
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.

BOD MEETINGS

Quarterly meetings: *4th Thursday of January, April & July at 6:00 pm. **Annual Homeowners Meeting:** *4th Thursday of October at 6:00 pm. (*Unless otherwise notified via website & marquee)

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.
willowbridgenews@gmail.com

(Continued from Cover)

- 0 – 5,000 = \$8.50 flat rate
- 5,000 – 15,000 = \$1.15 per 1000 gallons
- 15,000 – 25,000 = \$1.75 per 1000 gallons
- 25,000 – 35,000 = \$2.00 per 1000 gallons
- Excess of 35,000 = \$2.25 per 1000 gallons

SEWER – The sewage portion of your bill assumes the same flow (usage) that was recorded on your water meter. Sewer Rate in Gallons:

- 0 – 5,000 = \$10.00 flat rate
- 5,000 – 25,000 = \$0.75 per 1000 gallons
- 25,000 – 50,000 = \$1.00 per 1000 gallons
- Excess of 50,000 = \$1.50 per 1000 gallons

RWA FEE – The NHCRWA fee on your bill is a pass-through fee imposed by them on all water pumped from wells within its jurisdiction. The pumping fee as of April 1, 2018 is \$3.40 per 1000 gallons for groundwater,

While the groundwater reduction goals of the initial 2010 mandate have been met, the challenge continues. Currently there are no plans for converting WHCMUD #11 to a surface water system. More information about the NHCRWA can be found at <http://www.nhcrwa.org/>.

A WHOLE LOT OF SPLASHING GOING ON!



Splish, Splash, I jumped out of the bath, how was I to know a pool party was going on? By checking the Website, Marquee, reading Willow Talk and being signed up for EBlasts! Splash Day held May 19th seemed to be enjoyed by all. This year's attendees were able to partake in Little Caesar's Pizza, Kona Ice snow cones of many flavors, soft drinks,

Capri Sun juice packs and other miscellaneous treats. A Limbo, Hula and Dance Contest ensued and the kids had a blast. Always popular was the raffle prizes which this year included beach towels, foam kick boards, insulated drink glasses, insulated beach bags, waterproof electronic pouches and miscellaneous other prizes.

Included in the day's activities was a Committee **VOLUNTEER** sign up desk. The HOA would like to thank those that signed up as future **VOLUNTEERS**. And a Very Special Thank You goes out to the following **VOLUNTEERS** that did anything and everything asked of them. Most of them reported back that they had fun, even though they were serving and not participating in the day's activities (except for eating pizza and slurping those snow cones!).

Amy Sonnier

Rossy Elkareh

Penny Jones

Ricardo Elkareh

Gina McGinn

The HOA has **VOLUNTEER** opportunities available on the following committees. If interested please let Mandi at Graham Management know and she will forward the information to the board.

ARC Committee

Beautification Committee

Finance Committee

Nomination Committee

Recreation Committee

Social & Events Committee

Website Committee

REVISITING OUR SOCCER FIELD RULES & RESERVATION POLICY

Willowbridge has had a Soccer Field Rules and Reservations Policy for a number of years now. Please refer to willowbridgehoa.com, Our Amenities Tab and choose Soccer Field. As noted in the rules, participants must clean up all trash, water, juice and soda bottles/cans, etc. following use. The HOA also asks that play be suspended when the field is very wet and/or when the goals have water standing in them, to prevent damage to the turf and for everyone's safety.

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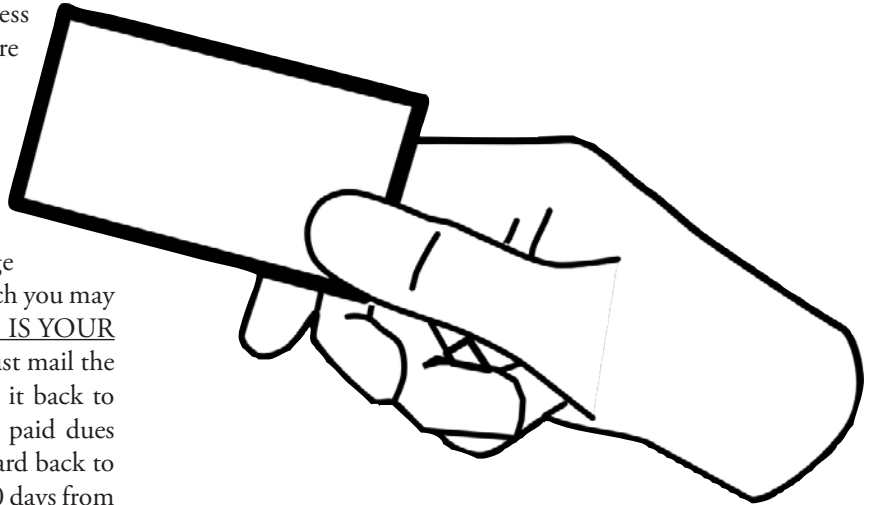
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AMENITY ACCESS CARDS

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: All Amenity Access Cards will be obtained from Graham Management. There are (2) ways to obtain a card:

1. Email a request for the card to:
accessgrahammanagementhouston.com (please note the double "m"s between graham & management), listing homeowner's name and address and stating that it is for Willowbridge HOA. Graham will email you an application which you may complete, scan and email back to them, IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST CARD. If it is a replacement card you must mail the application, including a check for \$10 and mail it back to them (or see #2 below). Graham will check for paid dues and fees and if everything is paid, will mail the card back to applicant. The application notes to please allow 10 days from receipt of application for the card.
2. Need the card quicker? You can go to their office located at 2825 Wilcrest Dr., #600, 77042.



Please note that only checks will be accepted for delinquent dues/fees and replacement cards. The office will not accept cash!

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8 A.M. – NOON

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13802 Centerfield Dr., Suite 300
Houston, TX 77070

Physical cost – \$20 | Cash only (no checks accepted)

- Optional EKG screening will be offered for an additional \$10 (athlete must be 14 years or older)
- **IMPACT** Baseline Concussion Testing will be available for \$5 (athlete must be 12 years or older)

Call **281.737.2120** for more information.

DON'T FORGET:

- Wear light, comfortable clothing
- Bring glasses or wear contacts, if you have corrected vision
- Bring your school physical form with medical history completed
- Bring signed physical consent form
- No appointment necessary

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IT'S HOT, HOT, HOT!

We've hit the mid to high 90's for several weeks now, the heat generated in most part by the sun. Please wear protection from the sun's UV rays and follow the ABCDEs of skin cancer listed below. Check your skin all over at least monthly for any growth or discoloration that has any of the following characteristics. If you notice any of these, please call your doctor.

A – Asymmetry (one part of the growth looks different from another part).

B – Border that is irregular.

C – Color changes or more than one color.

D – Diameter greater than the size of a pencil eraser.

E – Evolving; this means the growth changes in size, shape, symptoms, (itching, tenderness, bleeding) or color or shades of color.



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IS IT A BEAVER, MUSKRAT, OTTER (OR LOUISIANA'S NEAUX-EST CULINARY HIT!)?



If you've visited Ballinger Park in the last couple of months you may have seen a family of large rodents around the drainage pipe. They are actually Coypu, more commonly known as Nutria, a large

herbivorous, semi-aquatic rodent. Nutria have large orange buck teeth (color is caused by their enamel which includes a pigment that consists of the mineral iron). They were originally brought to Avery Island, Louisiana (home of Tabasco Sauce); intentionally for fur ranching, however, during WWII, fur prices collapsed and many ranchers lost interest. The nutria was then released and/or escaped into the surrounding marshes where they quickly became established. By 1962 they had replaced the native muskrat as the native fur bearer in Louisiana. Who remembers "Muskrat Love", a hit song by Captain & Tennille from 1976?

Nutria have nocturnal lifestyle patterns and can range from 12 – 22 pounds, eat a base of above-ground stems of plants, and often dig through the organic soil for roots and rhizomes. They are VERY destructive as evidenced by their burrowing into the lakeside at Willow Lake. When introduced into the environment they can quickly raze the landscape, eliminating a host of important flora. Rather than just chomping on leaves, they consume the whole plant, including roots, which means the plant is less likely to grow back, posing a risk to agriculture production. Their burrowing can cause serious damage to infrastructure.

Meat from the nutria is edible, lean and protein-packed (it's the "other red meat"), and believe it or not, actually healthier than turkey or chicken, exotic as alligator and is reported to taste similar to rabbit and/or dark turkey meat. Anyone for a good Merlot with their nutria or a bottle of Chardonnay or Riesling with a Nutria Cassoulet? An internet search revealed recipes for Heart Healthy 'Crock Pot' Nutria; Nutria Gumbo, Jambalaya, Chili, & Sausage; Nutria Spaghetti Casserole and Smothered Nutria Cajun Style. Aaaaah-IEEE-eee!

Due to their tendencies for destroying infrastructure, the MUD will be humanely trapping, removing and relocating the nutria to Waller, Texas (not park) in the near future.



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