



Volume 23

August 2018

No. 8

AND THE YOM AWARDS GO TO.....

The June Yards of the Month (YOMs) were recently awarded to the following homeowners.

WILLOWBRIDGE – 9326 Pearsall Dr.

Dagoberto and Juanita Rodriguez, first time winners of the award have lived in Willowbridge for 16 years. They share their home with daughter, Veronica, a student at Lone Star College and son Dagoberto, Jr., a junior at Jersey Village High School. In addition, Lola, a 9 year old Chihuahua and 2 year old Milo, a Pomskey (Pomeranian/Husky mix). The Rodriguez met at EGC, a plastics manufacturer that is engaged in injection molding for the medical and oil industries, Army jets, nuclear plants and refineries, married one year later and have been married for 34 years. Dago said it was love at first sight for him (obviously for Juanita, also).

Dago's landscaper did the planting and he does the maintaining. Their yard includes agapanthus, lariope, caladiums, coral miniature roses, gardenias, sago palms, red tip photinias, Italian cypress trees, vincas, portulaca, a large crepe myrtle, 2 large pine trees, and a shrub with small white blooms that no one can remember the name of.

STONEBRIDGE – 9418 SLATE STONE CT.

Annie Farmer and Kenney Dillard were totally elated to be named Stonebridge YOM winners. They have lived in Stonebridge since June 2014. Both Annie and Kenney are realtors and the #1 team in the Keller Williams Platinum Office, where Annie is known as "The House Whisperer" and Kenney, with his MBA, is known as "The Closer". Annie said they are dedicated to their real estate careers and making people happy is their purpose. They love and adore our neighborhood and feel like it's destined to be the next Oak Forest or Heights.

Kenny has 4 grown sons, 2 are married, and he became a grandfather this past February. They also have 2 fur babies, both rescue cats, Tucker a 12 year old male and Mazzy a 7 year old female. Both Annie and Kenney enjoy golfing and she also likes to read and write.

Included in their yard are yellow day lilies, coral drifting roses, ixoria, plumbago, white Encore azaleas, white agapanthus, lantana, fox tail ferns, sunlight ligustrums, dwarf bottlebrush, giant lariope, and Japanese yews. Rounding out the flowerbed are reddish landscape

rocks and they also have a crepe myrtle and oak in the front yard. When redoing their landscape they accidentally discovered their main water line ran right in front of the house. When the old plants came up so did the water line and they had no water for 4 days. To prevent this in the future, a wide border of river rocks has been added between the foundation and back side of the beds. They recently rerouted their irrigation system to better distribute the water to their plants and yard.

LUV YA' BLUE HAS RETURNED!

After diligently seeking opinions, evaluations and bids, the HOA board chose Pools by Dallas to make the necessary repairs to our pool. Dallas and his crew met the deadline and accomplished the goal of having it open by the July 4th holiday and did a great job of returning it to a beautiful aqua blue. Alas, the weather didn't cooperate and it had to be closed for the holiday.

Repairs included replacing the existing 3 large filters for the main pool with new commercial filters, complete with 900 pounds of sand in each; unplugged the backwash drain; re-plumbed the water lines going to and from the filters with larger pipes, allowing better water flow into/out of them, allowing the backwash system to operate as it should; and added a new chlorinator (aka chlorine generator) which sanitizes the pool.

The renovation also included draining of and refilling the pool with approximately 25,000 gallons of water (oh, what a MUD bill is yet to come!) and chemically treating the water to rebalance it, ultimately resulting in the beautiful blue water. Rounding out the project, Integrity Pools, a pool leak detection company was brought in to examine the structural and hydraulic systems to ascertain that there were no leaks.

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.

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
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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

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.....	mbranam@grahammanagementhouston.com
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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
Candye 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

TALKING TRASH

MORE PLASTICS BANNED AROUND THE WORLD

Plastic drinking straws are the latest disposable item to make it on the banned list, not only in the US, but world-wide. Restaurants banning plastic straws in California cities include Malibu (which also has banned plastic cutlery), Davis and San Luis Obispo; Ft. Myers, Florida; and Seattle, Washington. Boston, Massachusetts has banned plastic bags in city stores. SeaWorld is the most recent entry into the ban plastics market and SeaWorld Entertainment has removed all single-use straws and plastic bags from the company's 12 theme parks.

Texas has had several cities pass bans on single-use plastic bags. Recently, the Texas Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the city of Laredo can't impose a ban on plastic bags, endangering similar ordinances across the state in place to reduce pollution. At least 10 other cities, including Austin and Brownsville, regulate single-use shopping bags.

In the UK, plastic straws routinely placed in glasses of water and soda have been banned or limited. Although plastic straws represent a small percentage of the plastic that's produced, they often end up on beaches and in oceans. Charging fees for plastic bags has had some effect in countries such as Denmark, Hong Kong, England, Wales,

Ireland, Italy, Scotland, South Africa, Botswana and Germany (all stores that provide plastic bags must pay a recycling tax). The average Dane (Denmark) uses just 4 single-use plastic bags a year, after the introduction of a fee in 1994.

Following is an article by Joseph Curtin that makes a good case for banning plastic straws and single-use plastic bags that are wreaking havoc on our planet and the environment.

Millions of whales, birds, seals and turtles die because they mistake plastic bags for food or because they become ensnared in nets, packing bands (think a 6-pack of soda) and other items. Trillions of micro-plastics ends up in the ocean, with seafood eaters (us) ingesting an estimated 11,000 tiny particles annually. Plastic fibers have also been found in tap water around the world. In one study, researchers found that 94% of water samples in the US were affected. The impact on human health from direct exposure to micro-plastics is UNKNOWN.

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Questions: FFPS.org / 281-347-KICK (5425)
To Sign Up: FFPS.org

Willowbridge - Stonebridge



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Stoney Lake Dr.
Dallam Ln.
Slate Field Dr.
Ricaby Dr.
Skipping Stone Ln.
Stone Porch Ln.
Parmer Ct.
Upshur Ln.
Refugio Ct.
Parmer Ct.
Palacios Ct.
Willowbridge Park Blvd.
Slate Field Ct.

THE SCHOOL ZONE

BUDGETS & BACKPACKS

\$931 MILLION BUDGET APPROVED

On June 4, CFISD officials approved the 2018-19 school year budget of \$931 Million which will include a deficit of about \$12.6 Million. Despite the budget shortfall, trustees approved a \$3,000 raise for teachers and staff, costing approximately \$21.1 Million, and \$500,000 for police upgrades. An additional \$1 Million in local funding is earmarked to enhance school safety and security measures. Stuart Snow, Chief Financial Officer for the district said that at this time plans for this fund are not defined, but they do know that they want to establish a district-wide crisis response team and that the additional funding may also cover many other things such as purchase and use of more metal detectors, mental health services, additional police officers & K9s, expansion of counseling services and expansion of mental health evaluations to identify students at risk of harming others. A \$500,000 increase for the CFISD Police Department includes funds to hire 6 additional officers, 2 dispatchers, a security systems specialist and records clerk and (2) K9s.

The budget also includes an increase in the district's maintenance and operations tax rate by 2 cents, while decreasing its interest and sinking tax rate by 2 cents. This change caused the deficit to shrink from about \$39.8 Million to \$12.6 Million as noted above. The swap will not cause an increase in property taxes for homeowners and is an option for only one year, as a result of a Texas law that enables school districts to make such a switch a year after a natural disaster (Hurricane Harvey, which damaged several schools in the district and totally destroyed Moore Elementary). The district will still have to pull funds from its "rainy day" reserve fund to cover the deficit.

BACKPACKS BANNED

On June 21st an email was sent to parents and guardians by CFISD Superintendent, Dr. Mark Henry, announcing that the district will require all high school and middle school students to use clear backpacks in the 2018-19 school year. Students will still be permitted to use band bags, athletic bags and drill & cheer team bags, but must store them immediately upon arriving at school. "We are living in a difficult time requiring difficult decisions from school districts", Dr. Henry said. "While these changes present an inconvenience to our students and parents, we must continue to be vigilant to protect the safety of our students and staff", he said.

There are no set requirements placed on the backpacks, however, the maximum size permitted in grades 6 – 12 has been set at 6" x 9". Additional details on design and other restrictions can be found on the district's website. NOTE: Elementary school students will still be allowed to use regular backpacks.

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A NEW MOSQUITO SEASON.... A NEW VIRUS



A new mosquito-borne virus has been reported by University of Florida researchers. Based on their analysis, a teenager that tested positive for Zika two years ago, actually had the Keystone virus, which can be found in some animal populations along coastal regions stretching from Texas to the Chesapeake Bay. His symptoms were a mild fever and a rash.

Dr. J. Glenn Morris, Director of the Emerging Pathogens Institute at the University of Florida, said in a statement, "Although the virus has never previously been found in humans, the infection may actually be fairly common in some areas. It's one of those instances where if you don't know to look for something you don't find it."

There is no diagnostic test for the virus, which is carried by a species of mosquito – *Aedes atlanticus*, a cousin of *Aedes aegypti* – found mostly near water and wooded areas. Officials said hunters and campers are most likely to come in contact with such mosquitoes. A spokesman for the Texas Department of Health said the virus already is detected sporadically through public mosquito surveillance efforts in the state. He said it was identified in a mosquito sample from Orange County (east of Beaumont) in 2017 and in 2 samples from Galveston County in 2015. Officials do not consider the Keystone illness a significant threat in Texas and it is unlikely to become a public health issue, unless the virus mutates. Still, the virus is part of a group found to cause encephalitis in several species said the Florida researchers and they continue to do additional research. The Keystone virus was named after the Tampa Bay area where it was initially identified in 1964.

TIPS For Avoiding & Fighting Off Mosquitos

- Use bug repellent when outdoors
- Wear long pants and sleeves if possible
- Install or repair screens and windows
- Report dead birds to authorities (they might be a sign of West Nile virus)
- Empty standing water
- Mow tall grass and weeds
- Cut back vines and shrubs
- Change out stagnant water in bird baths and dog dishes
- Dusk and dawn are the most active mosquito times, so stay indoors when possible

For more information: www.dps.texas.gov/dem/Preparedness/tips/westNile.htm Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Master Naturalists

THE RECIPE BOX

Spicy Peach & Avocado Salad



INGREDIENTS

- 3 T. fresh lemon juice
- Kosher Salt
- 3 T. olive oil
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 t. pure honey
- 3 ripe, but firm peaches, cut into wedges
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 2 avocados, pitted and cut into wedges
- 1 Fresno chile, thinly sliced
- 1/2 c. fresh mint (torn if large) plus more for garnish
- 1/4 c. roasted pistachios, chopped (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Whisk together lemon juice, oil, honey, shallot and chile pepper in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Add peaches and toss to coat. Let sit at least 15 minutes (up to 1 hour).
2. Just before serving, add avocado and mint, toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper. Top with pistachios and garnish with mint.



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