



# Willow Pointe Newsletter

October 2006

Volume 2, Number 10

[www.willowpointe.org](http://www.willowpointe.org)

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Official Publication of the Willow Pointe Homeowners Association, Inc.

## Protecting our Homes from Burglars

This past summer, Willowpointe and the Northwest area has seen a dramatic increase in burglaries and home invasions. According to the Harris County Sheriff's Department (HSCD), this is attributed to a professional Colombian crime ring working the entire greater Houston Metro area. They are predominately dark skinned Spanish speaking Colombians, often carrying forged Puerto Rican identities. Many of the perpetrators from local burglaries of 2004 have been caught and are serving time in prison, yet the crimes are still being committed today. Most recently, a home on Trail Ridge was burglarized on August 2nd. The HSCD believes there are 4-5 of these criminals working the Northwest area and strongly believes the 290/Beltway corridor (of which Willowpointe is included) will be targeted again. The stolen items are difficult to track because they are not sold to the local pawn shops but are fenced through a buyer from the New York with profits funneled directly back to Colombia. These criminals are specifically targeting, Asians, Indians, and Pacific Islanders, but are not particular of race/ethnicity if circumstances are right. Rather than remaining silent, I have chosen to speak up and inform homeowners of the dangers that exist and to educate you on how to minimize your home from being targeted for burglaries. The greater the amount of security measures you take in your home, the lesser the likelihood of your home being robbed. While this editorial will mainly focus on preventive measures for Asian, the security tips apply to all Willowpointe Homeowners.

### MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER:

- Do not leave shoes out in the open at the doorway or back door. This is a telltale sign that Asians reside at this home.
- Do not hang a mirror over your doorway. Buddhists believe the mirror wards off evil spirits, but in fact, it invites criminals.
- Do not fly, hang, or stick your country flag on your home or vehicles. This easily tells a criminal how resides where.
- Consider not leaving several small potted plants outside your front entryway. Asians tend to enjoy growing flowering plants in pots.
- One-third of all burglars gain access to properties through

windows not easily visible from the street, including the back windows. Burglars will look for windows that are already open or will break through the glass. Double-glazing the glass will make it much harder to break through.

- Keep your doors and windows locked, even if you believe your area is safe.
- Avoid advertising your expensive purchases. Boxes left on the sidewalk let burglars know what's new in your house (tv, DVD player, computer, etc). Cut boxes into pieces before recycling.
- Consider installing low voltage landscape lighting around your home not only to improve the aesthetics but to act as a deterrent from crime.
- Install motion detector lights in darker areas around your home. Regularly check to make sure that the light bulbs aren't burned out or broken.
- Trim bushes to waist level. Do not allow large bushes to overgrow in front of windows allowing burglars easy cover. Don't advertise the type of security system you use. A thief will find out how to disable it. Do advertise that you do have a home security system. A simple solution is to switch sign with a neighbor who uses a different monitoring system.
- Arm your alarm, even when you are at home Refresh yourself on how to correctly enter a silent alarm call to the monitoring station.
- Exposed phone lines should be buried. A thief can cut through them to circumvent your alarm.
- Lock your gates and fences. An unlocked gate is an open invitation.
- A barking dog is the deterrent for burglars regardless whether they are large or small.
- The best types of doors are metal or solid wood with multiple deadbolts and hinges that are recessed into the doorframe.
- Considered draping the see through window on your front door to prevent anyone from seeing what is inside your home.

If you have glass sliding doors or French doors, arm each pane of

*(Continued on page 3)*

**View the Willow Pointe Newsletter  
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# Willow Pointe

## Important Numbers

<b>All Emergencies.....</b>	<b>911</b>
Harris County Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
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
Centerpoint Energy (gas).....	713-659-2111
Centerpoint Energy (electric).....	713-207-2222
BFI (garbage).....	713-937-9955
BFI (recycle).....	713-653-6666
West Harris County MUD.....	281-873-0163
Jane Godwin @ Randall Management, Inc. ..	713-728-1126 x11
..... Voice Mail night or weekends	713-728-1126
..... jcgodwinrmi@aol.com	
Newsletter Publisher	
Peel, Inc.....	advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

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Treasurer	William Brune	2004-2007
Director	Steve Mueller	2006-2008

Please contact us via our community website at [www.willowpointe.org](http://www.willowpointe.org) if you have questions, comments or concerns. Our e-mail box can be found by clicking on the HOA Board Box.

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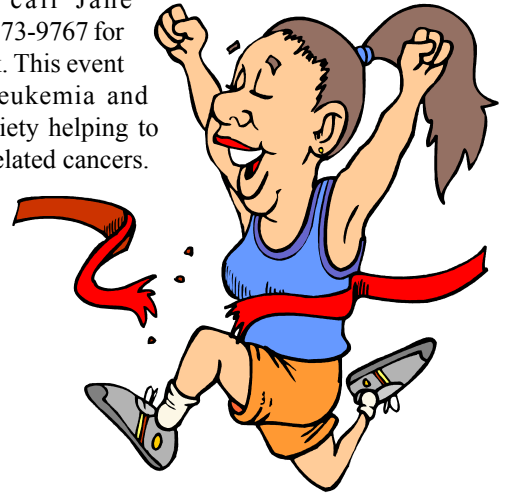
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## The Date is Set!

Saturday morning, October 28, 2006 is the date for the 5th Fairfield 5K for Life Fun Run/Walk benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Plan on joining us at the Fairfield Athletic Club early Saturday morning for a jaunt through Fairfield's beautiful hike and bike trails. There will be medals and prizes raffled off. Look for details and entry forms in next month's newsletter. For sponsorship information, call Jane Lakatos at 281-373-9767 for the fun run/walk. This event benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society helping to cure all blood-related cancers.



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Sean Nguyen, MBA

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those candles regularly to avoid fires.

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## Protecting our Homes - (Continued from cover page)

- glass. Add deadbolts to the top and bottom of the doors, making sure you use double-sided key locks for each deadbolt.
- Don't hide keys under doormats, or anywhere outside the house at all. Burglars know all about the "secret" hiding places of keys outside. Leave them with a relative, friend, or neighbor instead. Never leave your garage door opener in an unlocked car in your driveway. With it, a thief can gain access to your home or copy your code and break into your garage at any time.
  - Never leave your garage door open unless you have a need. Homeowners believe because they are home, they can leave their garage door opener without worries. Never leave ladders, unchained patio furniture or garbage cans in your yard. A burglar will use them to gain entry into your home.
  - Never leave a note on the door instructing someone to "leave a package around back" because you won't be home. You may as well construct a bright orange flag to hang over your door that says "Perfect Home to Rob!" if you leave any type of letter outside your home indicating you will be away.
  - Marked property is much harder for burglars to re-sell - and even if a burglar steals a marked item, it's much easier for you to identify what's yours.
  - Make a list of your property. Keep a list of your CDs, DVDs, videos and any other collectible items in a safe place (a list on

your computer is no good if the burglars steal that too!). Take photos of expensive items, such as jewelry. Fill in a "Property Inventory Form" to help police return your property to you.

- Make sure you have current and adequate insurance coverage.

## AVOID THE TELL-TALE SIGNS THAT YOU ARE NOT HOME:

- Don't let newspapers gather on your driveway or near your doorstep, and don't let your front door get littered with flyers. Ask a neighbor or friend to routinely pick these up for you.
- Never leave a message on your voicemail or answering machine stating you will be away for any extended period of time.
- If you are going to be gone for an extended period, make sure you have someone keep your lawn mowed, leaves raked, and snow shoveled. High grass or un-shoveled walkways and driveways are a top sign that no one is home. If you can't find neighbors or friends willing to do this, there are services you can hire who will that you can find in your local phone book.
- Have various lights in your home turn on and off automatically and randomly during the evening and night. Experienced burglars know to watch for homes with lights that remain on at all times. Unlike fixed light timers, with the Intermatic Random Timer you can (very easily) program lights to go on and off in your home at slightly different times each day (e.g., 6:15pm one evening, 6:20 pm the next, etc.)

In five minutes or less, experienced burglars can break in, steal your jewelry and other valuables and leave, without neighbors or anyone ever noticing. It pays to take the steps recommended above to protect your home from burglars looking for an easy target.

## GET YOUR PET THE EDUCATION IT DESERVES!



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## Project Prom 2007

Jersey Village High School: Project Prom 2007 is a non-profit organization led by Jersey Village volunteer parents whose goal is to provide a safe chemical-free environment for all seniors and their dates during an all-night after prom event. After the prom, the school will be transformed into a decorative theme where approx 1200 students will safely enjoy food, games, and entertainment."

For information on volunteering, please call Darlene Murry at 281-469-2985. For information on our Oct. 21 Golf Tournament, please call Russell Hamley at 713-466-4494. For more information, please visit the website [www.jvprojectprom.org](http://www.jvprojectprom.org)

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# Willow Pointe

## Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

					5			
6		5	1	7				
	1						3	9
8			4					
			3	2		1		5
	2	6						
2			6	4				
3					1		2	8
		7		3		4		

\*Solution at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com) © 2006. Feature Exchange

## Advertising Information

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](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

## Save Our Trees:

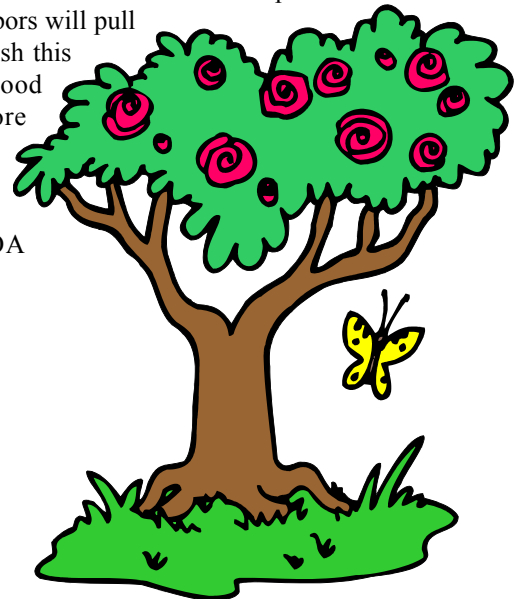
### A Better Looking Willow Pointe

This article is being written to advise all of our homeowners in Willow Pointe that we are damaging and maybe even killing our trees in our front yards. If you still have remaining metal tree supports in your front yard, they should be removed. They were first installed to help support the newly planted trees but most of our trees in our neighborhood have been planted long enough that these supports are no longer needed. The wire that was wrapped around these trees is bearing into the life giving bark where they are attached. Some of these wires, over time, have since broken but are still in the bark of the tree. If this is the case and you have not yet lost your trees, the remaining support poles have become useless and an eyesore to your landscape and should be removed.

Sometimes these poles are very difficult to remove because the roots of the trees have wrapped themselves around the barbs on these poles. We have located an individual that will remove these poles, if you prefer, for \$15.00 per pole. If you would like this work done on your property, please email the Willow Pointe Home Owners Association at [www.willowpointe.org](http://www.willowpointe.org) letting us know your request and we will contact you to have this work completed.

If all of our neighbors will pull together to accomplish this task our neighborhood will be a much more beautiful place to live.

Steve Mueller,  
Willow Pointe HOA  
Director



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## Blood Drive

Cook Middle School will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, October 12, 2006 from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. If you would like to participate, please call Lauren Zufall at 281/897-4405 to schedule a time.

### Donations Needed:

Cook Middle School is looking to collect donations of items that they can use as incentives for their honor roll students. Types of items needed and quantities vary; however, we have received many types of items in the past like pens, pencils, note pads, small stuffed animals, key chains, decorative erasers, Frisbees, etc.) If you have any items that you would like to donate (it could even be used for a tax deduction on your taxes!!), please contact Lauren Zufall 281-897-4405.

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## Do you have an article for the newsletter?

If you would like to submit an article or any information for the Willow Pointe Homeowners Newsletter, you may do so by sending the information in Word format to [stevenrlewis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevenrlewis@sbcglobal.net). Please include your name and a means to contact you. *All information is due no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month and is subject to editorial approval as well as available space.*

## Speed Limit Reduction Initiative

A new bill has recently passed in the Texas Senate. Senate Bill 540 gives the Harris County Commissioner's Court the authority to declare a lower speed limit of not less than 20 miles per hour in residential neighborhoods throughout Harris County.

In order to move this initiative forward, Paul Morgan, Willow Pointe resident, is circulating a petition which must be signed by 51% of the homeowners residing in Willow Pointe. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact Paul at 281-807-9118.

# FREE ENTREE

**Buy One Entree & Two  
Beverages & Get One  
Entree FREE**

Maximum Value \$6.00  
One coupon per table.  
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Expires 12/31/06

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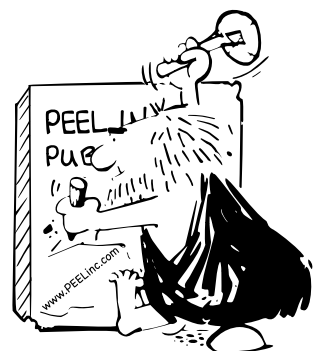
**References Available • Fully Insured  
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## Fit Facts™

FROM THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EXERCISE®

### Kick Your Way to Fitness

#### Are you bored with your current fitness routine?

It may be time to kick your way to one of the hottest workouts around. Kickboxing, also referred to as boxing aerobics and cardio kickboxing, is a hybrid of boxing, martial arts and aerobics that offers an intense cross-training and total-body workout.

It blends a mixture of high-power exercise routines that strengthen the body and mind, decrease stress and hone reflexes while increasing endurance and cardiovascular power. While kickboxing's roots are in full-contact fighting, it has found a safe and very effective niche in the fitness community.

While some estimates of kickboxing's calorie-burning potential have reached as high as 500 to 800 calories per hour, ACE-sponsored research suggests that only very large individuals working out at exceptionally high intensities are like to burn that many.

Instead, a 135-pound person is likely to burn 350 to 450 calories during a typical 50-minute class that consists of a warm-up, aerobic period and cool-down. There are, however, other important factors to consider before taking the first kick.

#### What is your current fitness level?

Keep in mind that many clubs may not offer classes that are based on progression. Even if your current routine features a hearty combination of cross-training workouts, you may want to take it easy at first, then build as your body adapts.

For this reason, an hour-long session may not be the wisest choice for someone who isn't used to this level of concentrated activity.

#### Familiarize yourself with the basics

Remember, adequate warm-up and close attention to proper technique are paramount. Classes should begin with basic stretches and a light cardiovascular warm-up such as pushups and jumping jacks.

A typical aerobic kickboxing routine involves a series of repetitive punches alternating with hand strikes, kicks and then a combination of all three. The repetitions help participants focus on proper technique while engaging several muscles groups and getting a fierce cardiovascular workout.

After the main section of the routine, stretches and floor exercises are commonly performed as a cool-down.

Don't forget to wear loose clothing that allows freedom of movement during your kickboxing workout and drink plenty of water.

#### Beginner beware

When attending your first class, try to avoid these common mistakes:

- Wearing weights or holding dumbbells when throwing punches, which puts your joints in danger of injury
  - Locking your joints when throwing kicks or punches
  - Over-extending kicks (Beginners should avoid high kicks until they get used to the routine and become more flexible.)
  - Giving in to group peer pressure and exercising beyond fatigue
  - And of course, you should ask your instructor about their training
- Cardio kickboxing is a combination of martial arts and aerobics, and employs different techniques from a "pure" martial arts class.

Many teachers may have boxing or martial arts training, but may not have the appropriate class experience or be properly certified by an organization such as ACE. Finally, once you understand the basics of this stress-relieving, total-body workout, you can kick your way to a new level of fitness.

#### Basic moves and equipment

It may seem awkward at first, but the basic moves in a kickboxing class can be mastered with time, patience and practice.

A prepared class will have mirrors, a punching or "heavy" bag and hit pads for participants to use. Here are two basic lower-body kickboxing moves that work the hamstrings, gluteals and quadriceps:

- The roundhouse kick - Starting from a basic stance (side of body facing bag, knees slightly bent, shoulder-length apart), lift your right knee and point it just to the right of your target. Pivot on your left foot as you extend your right leg. Kick the target with the top of your foot.
- The side kick - From the basic stance, pull your right knee up toward your left shoulder. Pivot on your left foot as you snap your right leg into your target. Strike with either the outside edge of your foot or your heel.



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to your neighbors.*

# WILLOW POINTE MARKET REPORT

Courtesy of "DAVID FLORY"

This market information report is provided to keep you informed of resale market activity in your subdivision.

	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	July 06	Aug 06
\$180,000 Above	1	1	2	0	0	1
\$160,000-179,999	0	0	0	1	1	0
\$150,000-159,999	1	0	0	1	1	0
\$140,000-149,999	0	0	0	0	2	0
\$120,000-139,999	0	0	0	0	1	2
\$120,000 Below	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Highest \$/Sq Ft</b>	<b>72.48</b>	<b>63.20</b>	<b>57.78</b>	<b>85.04</b>	<b>80.54</b>	<b>80.26</b>

This chart represents the homes that have sold and closed in the past 6 months according the Houston Multiple Listing Service.

## #1 Selling Agent in Willow Pointe!\*

### David "Super Dave" Flory



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\* According to information taken from the HAR MLS Computer

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