



WillowTalk

Willowbridge - Stonebridge Homeowners Association Newsletter
www.willowbridgehoa.com

Volume 13

September 2008

No. 9

WillowBridge and StoneBridge

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 26, 2008

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Park

Activities include:

Hayride

Pony rides

18 foot slide

Pumpkin painting

Cupcake wheel

Hair painting

Sweetie the Clown

Concessions

Music

Sustainable Living

Submitted by Jennifer Armentrout

Sustainable Living in Houston, a 501(c)3 organization, is about more than just recycling. We sponsor initiatives such as installing sidewalks for safety, sharing alternative energy ideas and energy saving hints, planning a regular farmer's market, and working with business to "green" up. Whatever your environmental concern is, we need your help!

No time? Log on to our forum at your leisure! Have kids? We are a family organization. Stop by and see what we are about! September 3rd from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Lone Star College Library.

We are setting this year's initiatives and forming groups. Upcoming big events include Drop and Swap! - A Texas Recycles Day event and Earth Day Celebration. You will want to be a part of this unique and accepting organization. Beginners welcome! See our website www.sustainliving.org or contact Jennifer Armentrout at 281-304-2257.

ELECTRONIC WASTE (E-WASTE)

(Reprinted in Part with Permission from Galveston Houston Area Council) Submitted by: Barbara Lallinger

E-Waste is the fastest growing part of the waste stream and accounts for 70% of toxic waste in landfills. For example, every monitor contains between 4 and 8 pounds of lead, as well as other toxic materials that are harmful to the earth. These toxins can contaminate soil, drinking water and affect human, plant and animal health. Another example is cell phones. It is estimated that 4 out of 5 people in the U. S. own cell phones and replace them every 12 months. Dry cell batteries in your cell phone and other wireless electronics are dangerous because they contain toxic materials that can harm the environment when thrown away. Americans use and discard about 3 billion batteries every year, which adds up to 125,000 tons. Batteries contain cadmium, copper and mercury. When thrown away, batteries end up in landfills where the toxins can seep into our groundwater and soil. When recycled, these materials can be made into new batteries. If you want to do your part to save the environment, please consider the following:

COMPUTERS, MONITORS, TVs – "Get the Lead Out"

Recycle – Good Idea. Most manufacturers have "take-back" programs and will recycle your computer at little or no cost.

Reuse – Better Idea. Maintain and keep your computer as long as possible. Only replace parts when necessary. When upgrading a TV, donate your old one if it still works.

REDUCE – BEST IDEA. Think about what you really need when buying a computer. Do you need the whole system or just a new hard drive or memory?

CELL PHONES – "Calling You to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

Recycle – Good Idea. Recycle your cell phone when you buy a new one. Most cell phone companies provide this service to customers for free.

Reuse – Better Idea. Collect old cell phones at home and work, and donate them to organizations for repair and distribution (like women's shelters).

REDUCE – BEST IDEA. Keep your cell phone as long as possible before replacing it.

BATTERIES – "Keep Your World Running by Recycling"

Recycle – Good Idea. Find out about battery recycling centers and businesses that accept them for recycling.

Reuse – Better Idea. Buy rechargeable batteries. One rechargeable

(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
Center Point - Street Lights & Outages	713-207-2222
Center Point Energy.....	713-659-2111
Jersey Village H. S. Project Prom.....	www.jvprojectprom.org
Darlene Murry	281-469-2985
Newsletter Publisher	
Peel, Inc.	www.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
PCMI/ Khara Matthews	281-870-0585x1350
J&S Trash Service.....	713-635-2500
Southwestern Bell - Repair	800-246-8464
- Billing	800-585-7928
Swimming Pool - Pay Phone	281-469-9004
Swimming Pool - Lifeguard.....	281-517-0225
W. Harris County MUD #11	281-807-9500
Willow Place Post Office	281-890-2392
Willowbridge Website.....	www.willowbridgehoa.com

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Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Call

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Willowbridge Homeowners Association Inc. - PCMI

Khara Matthews.....
E-Mail.....
Fax

If you have any questions or comments regarding the neighborhood please contact the #'s above.

To Submit Articles:

E-Mail articles and photos to the following address: articles@PEELinc.com. Articles must be received by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. Please specify on the article that it is to be published in the *WillowTalk*.

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Electronic Waste - (Continued from cover page)

battery takes the place of hundreds of batteries and saves money.

REDUCE – BEST IDEA. Check to see if you have batteries on hand before buying new ones. When suited to the task, buy hand-operated items that function without batteries.

RECYCLING OPTICAL MEDIA

Check with the following companies:

1. **HOUSTON COMPUTER RECYCLING:** CD's, DVDs, VHS Tapes, Batteries, All Electronics (except TVs). They offer data destruction services if you want to recycle computer equipment and don't want it getting into the wrong hands. They are located at 2121 Brittmore, Suite 200, you may contact them by telephone at (832) 364-6505 or www.houstoncomputerrecycling.com. They are located fairly close to us...ask for Lee or Daniel Evans (owners).
2. **GREEN DISK:** Recycles computer equipment, CDs and DVDs. Call (800) 305-3475 or go to www.greendisk.org to request a shipping container, which you then ship back for recycling. Their motto is...GreenDisk: because a good planet is hard to find.
3. **WESTPARK CONSUMER RECYCLING:** Located at 5900 Westpark Dr., they offer convenient drive-through service. They accept electronics and batteries for recycling, but not CDs, DVDs or VHS Tapes. While there, visit the site's ReStore inside the facility. It is a recycling information library and repository for items of post-consumer and post-industrial scrap for art projects. They also offer lots of other types of recycling, but that's for another article. If you're going to make the trip, call them first to see what they will and won't accept. (713-668-9551)

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Need Before-School Care, M-F for my Gleason 3rd Grader. Also need After-School Care from 2:30 - 5:15 (3 days a wk). Includes picking up my Cook 7th grader after school. Email ckg501@comcast.net or call 713-816-1330 Kim.

**42
USA**

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September Landscaping

Submitted By Ron Kerwin

September is the startup time for planning some cool season activity. It is about time, right? We need to continue with all the things we have been doing to get through another summer; watering at 1 inch per week, good layers of mulch etc.

Now is a good time to raise tree canopies and thin them out. Dead limbs are obvious now, which will not be the case after leaf drop. Many property owners still have curb area trees with limbs prohibiting cars or trucks from parking in front of the home without paint damage to the roofs. These same trees often endanger passersby on the sidewalk from being poked in the eyes. They also usually have dead grass underneath caused by lack of sunlight to the turf area. Other trees on your properties can benefit from canopy raising and thinning. Wax myrtles and some other "shrubs" can be treed up so they have visible trunks and more resemble trees than shrubs, a totally different look.

Historically Septembers are still very hot. If you are wearing down, you can still hire a lawn service (like mine) to get you through the season. Lawn Companies should be happy to take you on as new clients even this late in the season. If you desire to have an attractive and green lawn all winter, you can put down ryegrass seed late in the month or in October. Your property will stand out in the neighborhood as people drive by and see your green lawn amongst all the dormant grass lawns.

Buy your spring bulbs through catalogs or local nurseries. DO NOT plant them yet. You can get a better selection now. Hybrid tulips and hyacinth bulbs should be placed in the vegetable crisper section in your refrigerator for a necessary pre-chill period prior to planting them. Wait until October/November to plant any bulbs. You can however prepare the beds for the bulbs, add organic matter & turn over the soil.

You can cut back your roses early in the month, but do it sparingly. You will get a rose display this fall if you have maintained your roses well over the summer heat. You can actually plant a fall vegetable garden now. For a list of veggies recommended and their varieties for this area call the Texas Extension office at 817-884-1945 and ask for the free list. The Extension Office has a surprising quantity of free information available, so ask for answers to several questions. The volunteer Master Gardeners there will try hard to get you the right publications.



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Recipe of the Month:



Lemon Ice Box Cake

Submitted by Madra Ford

- 1 yellow cake mix
- 2 cans sweetened condensed milk (Eagle Brand)
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 8oz. container Cool Whip

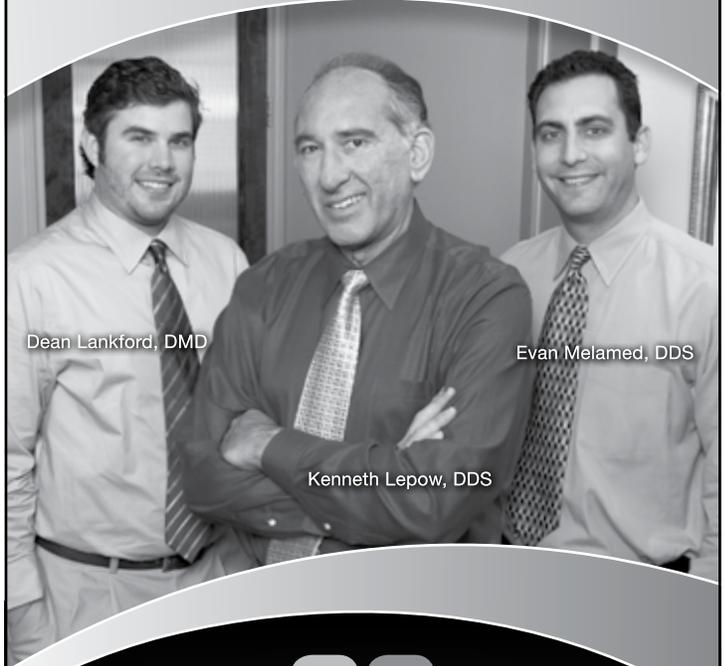
Bake cake as directed for two layers. When cool, slice each layer in half, making four layers. In a bowl combine condensed milk with lemon juice.....reserve 1/2 cup & set aside for frosting.

Use remaining juice/milk mixture as a filling between the four layers. With reserved mixture, gently fold in the Cool Whip and frost entire cake. Holes can be poked in cake so frosting is absorbed. This is better if made a day or two in advance.

If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to articles@peelinc.com.

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Dean Lankford, DMD

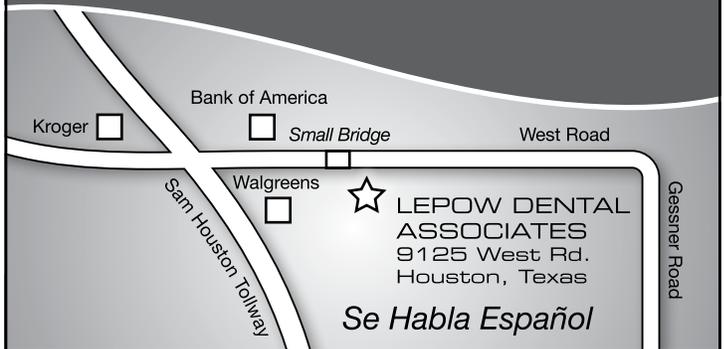
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Sudoku

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

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

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Meet Samantha and Marissa

The 2008 Heart Gallery of Central Texas is almost here! It will be unveiled at SPAZIO's on September 18, 2008. This picture is featured on our invitation this year, with the hopes that someone will see them and give us a call. You see, Samantha is 16, turning 17 in September and Marissa is 10. These two girls are full of life, hope and plans... but they need a permanent, forever family to help them grow and learn. Even at 17, Samantha still needs a family. She's missed out on the fun things girls get to do with their parents. While she has learned a lot of life's lessons, they are not the kind that create memories for a happy childhood. Each of these girls still have a lot of room to grow and a lot of love to give. Help them to believe!

About Samantha and Marissa: Samantha and Marissa are beautiful siblings who enjoy listening to music. Samantha is funny and sweet, she loves playing softball, drawing and writing in her journal. She will be going into the 9th grade and participates in special education. Marissa is energetic and friendly, she likes to color and play board games. She will be going into the 3rd grade and participates in special education. Both girls hope to attend college at the University of Texas in the future. These sisters hope for a family that enjoys going to church as much as they do. They also hope that their adoptive family enjoys to swim. Samantha and Marissa are legally free for adoption and look forward to meeting their adoptive family.

If you would like to learn more about adopting from foster care, Samantha and Marissa or hear more about The Heart Gallery of Central Texas Gala on September 18th, please call us at 512-301-2825 or tracyeilers@adopttexas.org

Photo by
Amanda Wintenburg

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Cy-Fair Lacrosse Introductory

Lacrosse Clinic

Cy-fair Lacrosse will be hosting a FREE introductory lacrosse clinic on September 13, 2008 from 9 am to 11 am at the East side of Matzke Park (13207 Copeland) for boys Grades 4 to 8. The purpose of the clinic will be to introduce potential players to the sport and promote lacrosse in the Cy-fair area. Equipment will be on loan for the clinic. Just bring yourself, your running shoes, and a parent / guardian.

Why Lacrosse?

Lacrosse is a great option for someone looking for a fast paced alternative to the "traditional" team sports. Lacrosse is the original team sport of North America. It was initially played by Native Americans as a way to resolve conflicts.

Lacrosse is a combination of soccer, basketball, and hockey all in one. It is a fast paced and exciting game to play and to watch.

Lacrosse is currently one of the fastest growing team sports in the US. For the past 10 years Lacrosse has been the fastest growing High School sport in the nation and the fastest growing NCAA sport for the past 6 years with a 10% annual player participation growth rate.

So come and see what all the excitement's about! We'll be there, just LAX'n.

For more information please visit our web-site at:

www.cyfairlacrosse.org

LSC-CyFair Hosts New Author Presentation and Book Signing

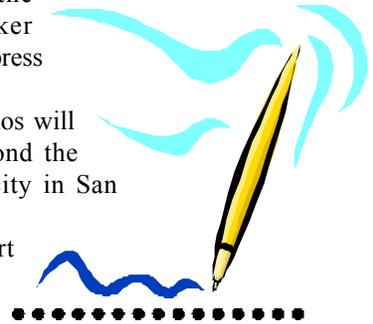
Raul A. Ramos discusses meanings of Texas Revolution Sept. 25

Among the Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations at Lone Star College-CyFair is a Sept. 25 presentation and book signing with Raúl A. Ramos, author and University of Houston assistant professor of history.

"Battle Without End: Public Discourses of the Texas War" will be presented at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Center on the Barker Cypress campus at 9191 Barker Cypress Road.

Following the presentation, Ramos will sign copies of his book – "Beyond the Alamo: Forging Mexican Ethnicity in San Antonio, 1821-1861."

For information, contact Robert O'Brien at 281-290-3257 or Robert.Obrien@LoneStar.edu.



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Name: _____ (first name, last initial)

Age: _____ Email Address: _____

[This information will only be used to notify you or your parents if your artwork was selected.]



Willowbridge

Willowbridge - Stonebridge



Pet Waste: Dealing with a Real Problem in Suburbia

Pet waste is not the predominant or most toxic pollutant in urban streams, but it is one of many small sources of pollution that can cumulatively have a big impact if left unmanaged. In North Central Texas the estimated dog population is 1.2 million. The average dog produces three to four pounds of waste daily, according to the Food and Drug Administration. That's about 900,000 pounds of dog poop produced every day in North Texas. Add to this figure cats and other smaller pets, and a significant volume of waste is being generated daily.

Pet waste contains bacteria and parasites, as well as organic matter and nutrients, notably nitrogen and phosphorous.

Some of the diseases that can be spread from pet waste are:

- Campylobacteriosis- a bacterial infection that causes diarrhea in humans.
- Salmonellosis- the most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans from animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Toxocaris- roundworms transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include vision loss, rash, fever, or cough.

In addition to these diseases, the organic matter and nutrients contained in pet waste can degrade water quality. When pet waste is washed into a surface water body, the waste decays. This process of breaking down the organic matter in the waste uses up dissolved oxygen and releases ammonia. Low oxygen levels, increased ammonia and warm summer water temperatures can kill fish.

Excess phosphorous and nitrogen added to surface waters can lead to cloudy, green water from accelerated algae and weed growth. Decay of this extra organic matter can depress oxygen levels, killing organisms. Objectionable odors can also occur.

Flies and other pest insects can also increase when pet waste is disposed of improperly, becoming a nuisance and adding another vector for disease transmission.

Managing pet waste properly is something that everyone can do to make a difference in their respective watersheds. Truly, proper individual actions result in significant water quality improvement when carried out by the majority. Unlike some forms of stormwater pollutants, pet waste can be easily and economically managed by the individual.

Sometimes, the 'out of sight, out of mind' attitude exists regarding pet waste. Employing this flawed thinking, waste is often disposed of in the street stormwater catch basin. Aside from dumping directly into a water body, this is the single worst place to dispose of waste. In the next rainstorm, the accumulated waste is transported quickly and efficiently to the nearby receiving water course, polluting it. That said, then, specifically what can be done?

Proper Onsite Disposal

Flush it

Pet waste itself (not the litter or bedding material) can be flushed down the toilet. The water from the toilet goes either to a septic system onsite or a sewage treatment plant that removes most pollutants before the water reaches its outlet. The used litter should be disposed of in

a securely closed bag in the trash.

Bury it

You can bury the waste directly in the yard. Dig a hole or trench that is 6 inches deep, away from vegetable gardens, play areas, and away from any lake, stream, or well. Often, the woods is an ideal spot. Microorganisms in the top layer of soil will break down and digest the waste, releasing the nutrients for uptake by adjacent vegetation. Never add the waste as a fertilizer to the garden or to the compost pile. The disease organisms will continue to survive and create a significant health risk.

Trash it

Check local ordinances first. Putting pet waste in the trash is against the law in some communities. Even if legal and easy, it's not the best solution. Waste can contribute to the landfill problems in the state.

Leave it to someone else

Believe it or not, a number of professional pet waste disposal services exist. These businesses will completely remove the waste from your yard and dispose of it themselves, for a fee.

Ordinances, signage and education

Many communities have "pooper-scooper" laws that govern pet waste cleanup. Some of these laws specifically require anyone who walks an animal off of their property to carry a bag, shovel, or scooper. Any waste left by the animal must be cleaned up immediately. Call your local health officer to find out more about pet waste regulations.

In recreation areas, trails, and public parks, 'scooper signage' along with plastic bag dispensers and disposal cans should be provided. This idea is especially critical at streamside or lake shore walking trails.

Public education is critical when addressing the pet waste problem. Interestingly, much of the public thinks of problems associated with pet waste as being only nuisance related-odors or aesthetics. An actual example of this is the woman walking her dog in the park who had brought along a brown paper bag to collect the 150 pound mastiff's waste. This she indeed dutifully did, and then proceeded to dispose of the bag by...tossing it into the lake!

Brochures, newsletters, signage, local public service announcements, and evening seminars are all ways to get the word out to the public. One very effective way to reach people is to have a flyer enclosed in tax bills or other municipally-generated mailings that go to all property owners.

Conclusion

The problem of pet waste disposal in suburbia is a real one. Research has indicated strongly that water quality is negatively impacted by this pollutant in Texas. However, unlike many other sources of water degradation in the state, improper pet waste management is a dilemma that can be easily corrected through education by organizations and common sense actions by individuals.

Let's all "doo" the right thing and pick up after our pets. Make a difference and go green.



September 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3	4 	5	6
7	8 	9	10 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	11 	12	13
14	15 	16	17	18 	19	20
21	22 	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29 	30				

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WILLOWBRIDGE MARKET REPORT

Courtesy of "Super Dave"

#1 in Sales in Jones Rd and West Rd Area!

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

	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul 08
\$300,000 +	0	0	0	1	1	1
\$270,000 - 299,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$240,000 - 269,999	0	2	0	0	1	0
\$200,000 - 239,999	0	1	0	0	3	1
\$170,000 - 199,999	0	2	1	2	0	0
\$170,000 -	1	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	5	2	3	5	2
Highest \$/Sq Ft	77.93	90.94	80.27	80.34	94.90	84.71

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

#1 Selling Agent in Willowbridge!*

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HIGHEST PRICE PER SQ.FT. resale homes sold in Willowbridge: \$104.46



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* According to information taken from the HAR MLS

**Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2007

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