

# WillowTalk

Willowbridge - Stonebridge Homeowners Association Newsletter  
www.willowbridgehoa.com

Volume 19

August 2014

No. 8

## JUNE *Yards* OF THE *Month*

### 8703 WHEATLAND DRIVE



Laverne and Mike Barrow have lived in Willowbridge for 20 years. They have two grown sons and daughter in laws, two grandsons and one granddaughter. Mike is a new home sales manager for Beazer Homes and Laverne has worked long term as an executive assistant for the same gentleman and is lucky enough to get to work from home (no traffic hassles!).

The Burrows have two fur babies, one a large Labrador and the other a Labrador/ terrier mix, both rescues. Laverne has been instrumental in rescuing and returning to their homes, several dogs over their years here.

Not new to the YOM award, they have been the monthly recipient three times in the past and have placed several times in the Christmas decoration categories (think Santa Claus going down the chimney!). Laverne stated that they are very proud of our neighborhood and its continued upkeep as it ages.

### 9206 SKIPPING STONE LANE

Andrea and Michael Holste have lived in Stonebridge for 17 years. Their family includes three fur babies, two giant schnauzers and a terrier mix. Andrea was the original committee chair of the Welcoming Committee.

In 2001, the Holstes began hosting high school exchange students. They have the students for one full school year and have had three from Germany and one from Switzerland.

Another repeat winner, the Holstes won YOM approximately ten years ago. They credit Antonio's Lawn Care and Maintenance for their current award.



# 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
Trash – Royal Disposal & Recycle .....	713-526-1536
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
Cable/Internet/Phone...COMCAST .....	713-341-1000

## ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Beautification Committee	
Jennifer Y'Barbo .....	jhybarbo@subhou.com
Homeowners Association .....	281-497-4320
Graham Mgmt - Tracy Graham	
.....	grahammanagement@sbcglobal.net
Clubhouse/Reservations	
Tammy Puerta .....	281-497-4320
Pool Parties/Tags	
Sweetwater Pool Co. ....	281-988-8480
Marquee Coordinator	
Barbara Lallinger.....	281-890-8464
Newsletter Coordinator	
Barbara Lallinger & Rebecca Peters	
.....	willowbridgenews@gmail.com
Security Coordinator	
Julie Dubros.....	281-794-9032
.....	martin@juliedubros.com
Website Coordinator	
Angela Doray.....	willowbridgehoa@live.com
Yard of the Month Committee	
Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Contact	
Jennifer Y'Barbo .....	jhybarbo@subhou.com
Soccer Field Reservations	
Terese Joubran .....	tmjoubran@gmail.com
Lost Pet Coordinator	
Sonia Moore .....	msrco@aol.com, 281-955-8068
Welcoming Committee	
Gracie Galvan .....	281-732-0009
.....	galvangracie@hotmail.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Y'Barbo.....	President
Julie Dubros .....	Vice President
George Schaudel .....	Secretary
Rebecca Peters.....	Treasurer
Brian Fisher.....	Director

## HOA INFORMATION

Willowbridge Homeowners Association Inc. - Graham Mgmt  
Tracy Graham ..... 281-497-4320 |

E-Mail ..... grahammanagement@sbcglobal.net |

Fax ..... 281-870-1654 |

If you have any questions or comments regarding the neighborhood please contact the numbers above.

## HOA MEETINGS

**Willowbridge/Stonebridge Homeowner's Association Meetings** are held the fourth Thursday of each month at the community clubhouse at 7:00 pm.

## 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](http://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.

## BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

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**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

## BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

Stoney Lake  
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Willowbridge  
**Baumanis family**

Therrell  
**Johnson family**

Stoney Lake  
**Feng family**

Refugio  
**Goss & Nesloney  
family**

Provided by the  
Welcome Committee

## MONTHLY MEETINGS A THING OF THE PAST

*By Barbara Lallinger*

After much thought and discussion, the board has voted to discontinue meeting monthly. Effective, January 2015, meetings will be held quarterly (see schedule below). Everyone is extremely busy these days and the monthly meetings had evolved into pretty much the same 5 to 7 residents attending most of them. Today's technology allows for most of the board's business to be transacted via texting and/or telephone. If a situation arrives requiring a meeting before the regularly scheduled date, a special meeting may be held.

There will not be a monthly meeting in August. In the past, this month has been designated as a planning meeting (attended by board members and the management company only) to formulate next years' budget. The next regularly scheduled meeting

will be held, Thursday, September 25. The ANNUAL meeting will be held Thursday, October 23 (unless otherwise notified). PLEASE REMEMBER, this meeting requires 10% of homeowners attendance in person or by proxy to legally conduct business brought before the board (most importantly, election of new officers and budget approval – find out how your \$\$\$ are being utilized). This 10% equates to 83 live bodies or proxies of members in good standing with the HOA. Please mark your calendars for this most important meeting.

**MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2015**  
(4th Thursday of the month)  
January 22 · April 23  
July 23 · October 22 (Annual)



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RE/MAX Professional Group  
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Cell 281.851.7405



**Jean Gonzalez**  
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# TREES

## CHAPTER 4 Pine Trees

(Originally published in Nov. 1999 by Glen Telge)

East Texas is pine forest country and you can see the tall pine trees everywhere. Pine trees are characterized by having leaves in the form of clustered needles and fruit cones that bear seeds. Most of the pines in the Houston area are the fast growing Loblolly Pine - *Pinus taeda*. The Loblolly Pine has three (occasionally two) 6-9 inch needles in each cluster.

The Slash Pine - *Pinus elliottii*, which is not native to Texas, is often planted for landscaping and commercial lumber production. The Slash Pine has two or three 8-12 inch long, lustrous needles with a membranous sheath at the base of each cluster. They are very susceptible to fusiform rust, which disfigures the tree's trunk and branches.

Two other native species, the Longleaf Pine - *Pinus palustris*, with 9-15 inch long needles and the Shortleaf Pine - *Pinus echinata*, with 3 inch long needles were once common in East Texas, but are now pretty rare, especially around the Houston area. Two smaller, ornamental species, the Japanese Black Pine - *Pinus thunbergii* and the Spruce Pine - *Pinus glabra*, are sometimes used for landscaping in Houston. Local nurseries typically carry the Loblolly, Slash and Japanese Black Pines.

The healthy looking pines planted along West Road at Willowlake appear to be some variety of Loblolly Pine. The Loblolly Pine exhibits significant variation within its species. While most varieties have a tall, slender trunk with a few limbs near the top quarter of the tree, other varieties have a tall, fat trunk with heavy limbs most of the way up the tree (e.g. Bull Pine variety). Soil conditions are probably the largest factor in determining which varieties will grow where. The Loblolly Pine's primary pest is the Pine Bark Beetle.



The Lost Pines of Bastrop in Bastrop State Park, about 35 miles southeast of Austin, are an interesting extension of the East Texas Pine forest because they are more than 100 miles west of the East Texas Pine forest range. The Loblolly Pines that grow at Bastrop are generally shorter and more tolerant of drought than the East Texas pines.

If you have been camping and tried to use pine wood for your campfire you might have found that it burns well and keeps you warm, but it's not a very suitable wood for cooking a good cut of meat. For a better flavor, I suggest that you stick with firewood from a hardwood tree like oak or pecan. The wood's high sap content can also make it messy to handle.

The tallest Loblolly Pine on record in Houston is located at 4500 Woodway Drive and is 121 feet high, 8 feet in circumference, and has a 47 foot spread. The largest Loblolly Pine on record in Texas is near Beaumont and is 143 feet high, 14 feet in circumference, and has a spread of 86 feet.

## THE SCHOOL ZONE

By Barbara Lallinger

SCHOOL STARTS AUGUST 25! The 2014-15 school year ushers in several new Gleason ES PTO board members with several returning for a second or third year in their position and/or a second, third and even fourth year for some in a different position (you know who you are...Lara Cheves).

President **Angela Podladnik**  
 VP Fall Fundraising **Lara Cheves\***  
 Secretary/Parliamentarian **Jennifer Nobles**  
 VP Spring Fundraising **OPEN**-Picture Your Name Here!  
 VP Membership/Volunteers **Mr. Brice Espinosa**  
 VP Secondary Fundraising **Mandy Manuel**  
 Historian **Clara Van dyk**  
 VP Special Events **Kat Villegas**  
 Treasurer **Karen Primm\***  
 Bilingual Liason **Zuri Echeverria**  
*\*Denotes WBSB resident*

Many volunteers are needed to help with all of the events held throughout the school year (including hearing and vision screening. Remember, you do not have to have a child or grandchild enrolled in Gleason to volunteer; however, if you don't, you must qualify through the Partners in Education (PIE) office to become a "Global Volunteer". PIE can be contacted at (281) 894-3950. If you are retired or just have some free time on your hands, please consider volunteering. **YOU ARE WANTED AND NEEDED!**

### OTHER DATES OF IMPORTANCE:

**TIGER Express Day** Saturday August 16

A - L : 9 -11:00 a.m. / M - Z: 1-3:00 p.m.

**Orientation (PK & K)** Tuesday, August 19 (evening)

**Meet the Teacher (PK - 5th)** Thursday, August 21 (evening)

**Hearing & Vision Screening** Tu, W, Th , September 23, 24, 25

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# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## COMING SOON!!!

By Barbara Lallinger

### EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE!

Our HOA board is hosting a neighborhood parade scheduled for Saturday, September 13, that will culminate at the clubhouse with hotdogs, chips and drinks. Also, the swimming pool will be open for one last summer swim. The parade is still in the planning process. Please watch the marquee and website for further details.

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT will be celebrated on Tuesday, October 7. The HOA board is also in the process of planning

activities for this event. This year they plan to shake things up a bit by changing to a different contest. Some ideas that have been bantered around are: chili cook-off, pumpkin decorating contest, etc. (Hey..

Julie Dubros, former art teacher, didn't I hear you suggest an art contest a couple of years back?).

### NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

The board has also tentatively approved a Garage Sale to be held in October. Watch for details via the newsletter, marquee and website.

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# HURRICANE PLAN FOR PETS

July's issue of WillowTalk included an article on a Hurricane Plan for us...now we have one for our beloved pets.

## IDENTIFICATION

Be sure your pet has a collar with a readable ID tag (not just your vet's vaccination tags!) with your cell phone number on it. It is also a good idea to have a friend's number on the tag. Micro-chipping your pet for permanent identification is highly advisable and is relatively inexpensive.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Keep a record of phone numbers of your vet, emergency clinic, pet sitter(s) and other providers in written form, readily available and also preprogrammed into your cell phone.



## MEDICATIONS AND MEDICAL RECORDS

Store medications (suggested: (1) month supply) in a waterproof container. All pets should be current on their vaccinations. Written information: vaccination and other shot records, pets feeding schedules, medical conditions and any behavior issues, etc. should be kept in a sealed, waterproof plastic bag along with a recent photo of your pet in case you get separated—and to prove they are yours when you're reunited!

## SUPPLIES

Food and water for (5) days for each pet, bowls and a manual can opener if your pet eats canned food. Keep extra gallons of water on hand to rinse your pet if it is

*(Continued on Page 8)*

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SWIM



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LIFE  
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TO WATER



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& BATHROOMS  
SAFER



CHECK POOL  
& HOT TUB  
FIRST



STAY AWAY  
FROM  
DRAINS



BE SAFER  
AT THE  
BEACH



LEARN CPR  
& REFRESH  
SKILLS YEARLY

# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## *Hurricane Plan (Continued from Page 7)*

exposed to flood waters and/or chemicals.

Have a sturdy collar and leash available. If you have to leave your home it is a good idea to have favorite toys and bedding on hand to alleviate stress. Also have travel size food and water bowls available.

Sturdy carriers are required to transport your animals. They should be large enough to allow your pet to stand comfortably, turn around and lie down. Your pet may have to stay in its carrier for hours at a time. If your pet has to go to a shelter, a carrier will most likely be required.

Don't forget the cat litter box, kitty litter, litter scoop and garbage bags to collect pet's waste.

Other useful items include paper towels, newspapers, plastic trash bags, grooming items and household bleach.

### **PET FRIENDLY HOTELS AND MOTELS**

Before disaster strikes, find a pet friendly hotel or motel outside your immediate area. Ask about restrictions on size, species and number. Ask if the "no pet" policy is waived in an emergency. Listed below are online resources for pet friendly

hotels provided by the Humane Society:

bringfido.com  
dogfriendly.com  
doginmysuitcase.com  
pet-friendly-hotels.net  
pets-allowed-hotels.com

### **STAYING AT HOME**

Last, but not least, if you decide to wait out the storm/hurricane and stay at home, do it safely. Identify a safe area where you and your pets can all stay together. Make that area animal friendly by closing off or eliminating unsafe nooks and crannies where frightened cats (and small dogs) may try to hide. Move dangerous items such as tools or toxic products that may be stored in that area. Be sure that all doors, pet doors and windows are closed and secured; close off open fireplaces and vents with heavy duty plastic and strong tape; and position pet carriers away from windows.

Don't forget...Preparation is the key! Once the disaster strikes stores will be out of a lot of these items.

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# TALKING TRASH

By Barbara Lallinger

## BUNDLE UP!

Many of us have been trimming our trees and gathering dead branches in the past few weeks, some due to need, some due to wind damage. Please abide by Royal's Requirements for proper disposal of these and other items such as tree stumps, plastic edging forms, etc. Also, please note that Royal has for the most part been picking up these items even if they don't conform to the rules, however; they are not required to do so. Pickup of non-conforming items also apparently depends on which workers are picking up that day, the load in the truck, the weather, etc.

Sometimes these non-conforming items are picked up, sometimes they are left, sometimes they are picked up on the next regularly scheduled pick up day and sometimes (as happened a few weeks ago at an address on Pearsall Dr.), they weren't picked up for two (2) weeks.

## ROYAL'S REGULAR REQUIREMENTS:

- Items must be bundled and secured with string, rope, plastic, etc.
- Bundles can weigh no more than 40 pounds.
- Bundles can be no more than 3 to 4 feet in length.
- Tree limbs/branches must be 3 inches or less in diameter.

These requirements apply to other items (as noted above) such as plastic/metal edging, window blinds, etc.

## BULK ITEM PICKUP

I have to agree with (and am sure you will, too), the Royal Disposal & Recycle website, old washing machines don't fit in the garbage can too well and they tend to rip even the most advanced plastic bags. That is why they have a special bulk item pickup day to haul away big items for us. Items should be placed near the garbage at the edge of your driveway on collection day (Tuesday

*(Continued on Page 10)*

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# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## R U CRAFTY?

By Barbara Lallinger

Well are you? Several of our residents have shown their hand with their door wreaths, holiday decorations, teacher appreciation luncheon decorations and party decorations in general.

Would you be interested in joining a crafting club? Plans are in the development stages with these general ideas:

Club will start after school begins (probably in mid-September). Club will meet once a month in a very central location (day or nighttime TBD). Crafters will provide their own materials, tools and anything else required to complete their project.

If remotely interested, please contact Barbara Lallinger at (281) 890-8464 ASAP As many details will have to be worked out (such as acquiring the meeting venue).

### Talking Trash (Continued from Page 9)

or Friday). Items will be picked up at no charge and are limited to one (1) item per week, per home. Oversized items and/or multiple items are subject to additional fees.

### EXCLUDED ITEMS

These items are always excluded from any trash pickup unless noted otherwise below:

Construction trash (includes concrete, large quantities or rolls of carpet & foam padding), fencing, construction materials and debris), garage door openers, dirt, gravel, sand, rocks, hazardous, toxic or radioactive waste, large pieces of glass or mirrors (must be broken, placed in a cardboard box and weigh less than 40 pounds), paint, petroleum products/filters, acids, car batteries, car parts, tires, chemicals and human or animal fecal waste (if not contained in a plastic bag or closed boxes so that Royal employees do not come into direct contact with fecal materials while loading into the truck).

Contact Royal customer service at (713) 526-1536 with your questions or to arrange for extra-large and/or excluded items to be picked up separately at a negotiated price.



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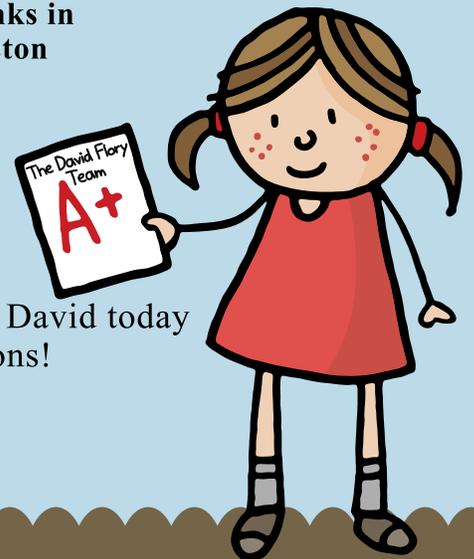
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