



## PARKING VIOLATIONS and TEXAS STATE LAWS

*By Barbara Lallinger*

If this headline sounds familiar, it means you read your WillowTalk. This has been a subject covered in several issues, and one that continues to be a problem in the neighborhood. As noted in the December issue in the article titled "Annual Homeowner's Meeting Report", Al Sterlex, a CFVFD member and a Willowbridge resident made a presentation on obstructions in traffic flow, endangering pedestrians and property. A few days before the meeting, CFVFD brought a large fire truck into the neighborhood to see if it could navigate our streets when cars were parked on each side of the street. It couldn't. One example used was turning left onto Bexar Drive from Willowbridge Park Blvd. Following are some of Al's observations presented to those in attendance at the annual meeting. Even though the legal parking distance from a crosswalk is 20':

1. Turning left onto Bexar Dr., requires 46' from the crosswalk with NO OBSTRUCTIONS on the south curb.
2. Turning right onto Bexar Dr., requires 38' from the crosswalk with NO OBSTRUCTIONS on the north curb.

Vehicles parked across the street from each other (less than a vehicle length apart), completely obstructs passage of an emergency fire response vehicle. It is especially critical on a curve.

The civil liability to the HOA and to the vehicle owners who obstruct the passage of an emergency vehicle will be substantial if a delayed response time results in excessive property damage or delayed patient care.

### **Al's suggested actions were:**

1. Notify residents and property owners of consequences of illegally parked vehicles with regular reminders in the newsletter.
2. Notify property owners of potential criminal and civil consequences of obstructing traffic flow of emergency vehicles by parking vehicles across the street from other vehicles less than a car length away.
3. Direct law enforcement security contractors to immediately begin and continue to enforce the Texas Transportation Code,

Chapter 545, and be prepared to cite vehicle owners who violate Texas Penal Code 42.03 when parking of vehicles renders a street impassable or renders passage unreasonably inconvenient or hazardous. (Note: The HOA may not direct the law enforcement officers to go out and write citations; however, two of the officers that regularly patrol our neighborhood were in attendance, taking note of resident's displeasure with these violations and citations for violations were increased the next day).

4. Direct the management company to notify property owners who consistently park vehicles in such a manner as to restrict the traffic on streets to one lane, of the potential criminal and civil liability of such parking as well as the inconvenience caused to their neighbors.

As part of the presentation he also cited parts of the Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 545.302 STOPPING, STANDING OR PARKING PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN PLACES. (b) An operator may not, except momentarily to pick up or discharge a passenger, stand or park an occupied or unoccupied vehicle:

- (1) in front of a public or private driveway;
- (2) within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
- (3) within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- (4) within 30 feet on the approach to a flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign, or traffic-control signal located at the side of a roadway.

Sec. 545.303 ADDITIONAL PARKING VIOLATIONS. An operator who stops or parks on a two-way roadway shall do so with the right-hand wheels of the vehicle parallel to and within 18 inches of the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

(This means you have to park in the direction of traffic.) For purposes of these sections, "obstruct" means to render impassable or to render passage unreasonably inconvenient or hazardous.

Following is the repeat of the rest of the article previously published under PARKING VIOLATIONS and TEXAS STATE LAW. Many

*(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
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
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Nominate your favorite at: willowbridgehoa.com or Contact	
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Lost Pet Coordinator	
Sonia Moore .....	msrco@aol.com, 281-955-8068
Welcoming Committee	
Gracie Galvan .....	281-732-0009
.....	galvangracie@hotmail.com

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Barbara Lallinger.....	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 quarter (Jan, Apr, Jul, & Oct) 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.

## 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:

1. Dial (713) 207-2222.
2. Choose a language preference.
3. Select option "4" (for street light outages).
4. Provide the 6 digit number (located approximately 5 feet up the pole), street name and closest address.

## **Parking Violations** (Continued from Cover Page)

residents are not aware that seemingly simple things we do each day are against the law. State Law prohibits the following:

- Blocking Driveways
- Parking too close to Intersections
- Parking too close to Corners
- Blocking Fire Hydrants
- Parking in Fire Lanes

### **Blocking Driveways**

When a vehicle is parked, blocking a driveway, it creates an inconvenience for the homeowners attempting to leave/enter their driveway.

### **Blocking Sidewalks**

If a vehicle is parked, blocking a sidewalk, it becomes difficult for pedestrians, bicycles, children, strollers and wheelchairs to pass safely. Blocking the sidewalk can result in forcing these people to enter the street causing unsafe conditions. This includes parking a motorcycle on the sidewalk!

### **Blocking a Fire Hydrant**

This is one of the most common violations. When a vehicle is

parked blocking a fire hydrant or fire lane, it creates problems for emergency vehicles and hinders their ability to do their job safely and effectively. No vehicles may be parked within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.

### **Parking Next to Curbs and Oncoming Traffic**

Vehicles can't be parked more than 18 inches away from the curb and must be parallel to curb and parked in the same direction of traffic flow. This means that the vehicle must follow the curb and can't pull in or back in straight on the curb. This is a serious problem on many streets with cul-de-sacs.

### **48 Hour Parking**

Vehicles can't be parked on any residential street for more than 48 consecutive hours.

### **Parking too Close to an Intersection/Crosswalk**

Vehicles can't park within 30 feet of a stop sign or 20 feet of a crosswalk.

Failing to obey these laws can result in the issuance of a traffic citation. Please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that these rules are also followed by your guests!

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# Willowbridge - Stonebridge

## TALKING TRASH

## The School Zone

By: Barbara Lallinger

### (No Big Deal - until the end of the year!)

By Barbara Lallinger

Royal Waste holidays observed are: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. According to this schedule we will have a relatively easy to remember schedule for recycling Do I or Don't I put out the trash/recycle on this holiday, at least until the end of the year and it's a biggie! There are no holidays to worry about until Christmas Day (12/25/15) which falls on Friday this year and New Year's Day (1/1/16) which is also a Friday. Christmas trash will not be picked up until the following Tuesday (12/29/15) and New Year's trash will not be picked up until the following Tuesday (1/5/16). These are extremely heavy trash/recycle days (think smelly foodstuffs, paper, boxes, party decorations, styrofoam peanuts, etc.) Please be considerate of your neighbors and don't subject them to nasty smells and things blowing all over their yards! Remember leftover food (fowl carcasses, rib bones, seafood shells, etc.) can be frozen and then then put in the trash on the following Tuesday.

### Gleason ES

01/29 (Th) VIPS Meeting @ Berry Center (*Must register to attend*)  
02/12 & 13 KISS Day Rose Sales

### Cook MS

01/28 (W) Chick-fil-A (SN)  
02/12 (Th) Bullrito's (SN)  
02/25 (W) Chick-fil-A (SN)  
02/27 (F) Chili Cook-Off

### JVHS

01/13 (Tu) PP Parent Meeting (Sm Commons)  
01/23 (F) Merlot to Masterpiece\*  
01/31 (Sa) 1st Annual Falcon 5K Walk/Run  
02/05 (Th) Chick-fil-A (SN)  
02/10 (Tu) PP Parent Meeting (Sm Commons)  
02/13 (F) Golf Tournament (Jersey Meadows)\*  
02/28 (F) Casino Night\*

\*1/23/15 – MERLOT to MASTERPIECE – will be held at the Windfern Forest Utility District Building, 14410 Mauna Loa Ln., Houston 77040, starting at 7:00 pm. Come join us and bring a friend for a fun night of wine and artistic creativity, while supporting PP2015. This fall's event was a blast and well attended, resulting in a move to a larger space to accommodate more artists! You'll be walked step by step to the completion of a masterpiece that you'll take home with you. No experience is necessary and all materials are provided, including a 16x20 canvas.

Snacks will be provided with BYOB. Cost: \$45 for a little paint and a lot of fun! Please RSVP to:  
jvhsprojectprom2015@gmail.com.

\*2/13/15 – GOLF TOURNAMENT – will be held at the Jersey Meadows Golf Course. Get your clubs ready for a Valentine Golf Tournament and a sweetheart of a deal. Registration: 6:30 am with Shotgun Start: 8:00 am. There will be an After Tournament Awards Lunch with Silent Auction and Door Prizes. SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

\*02/28/15 – CASINO NIGHT – will be held at Knights of Columbus Hall, 9623 Zaka Street, Houston 77064.

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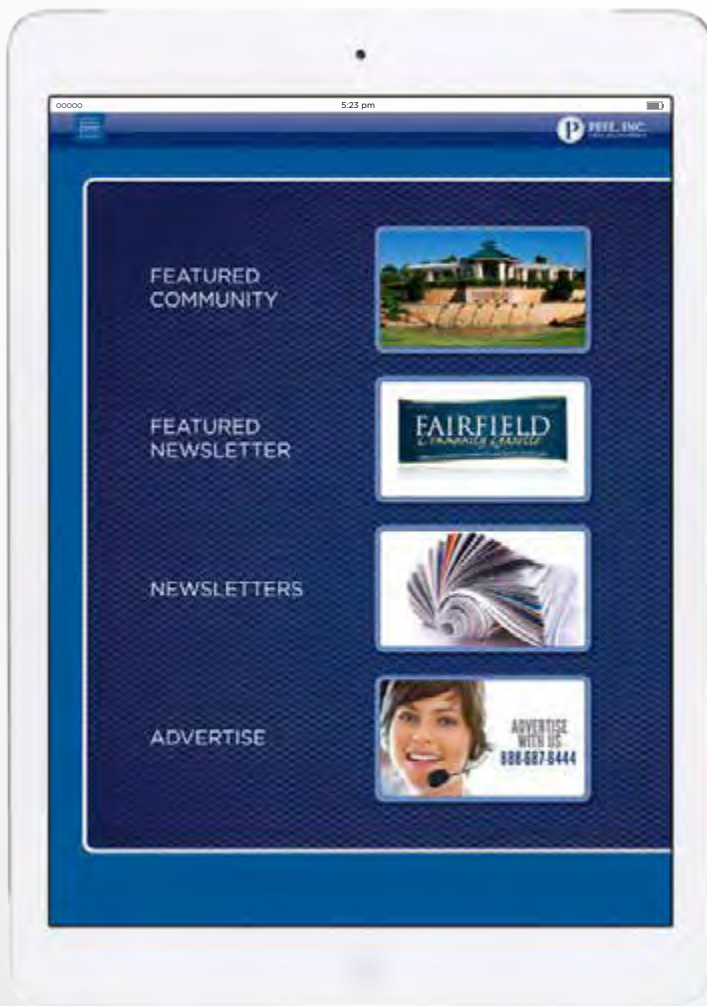
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## Parking Violations (Continued from Page 4)

### 01/31/15 - 1ST ANNUAL FALCON 5K WALK/RUN

Hosted by the JVHS Athletics Department Booster Club (JVABC), this event will benefit the JVHS Athletic Department for all sports, as well as bring our community together to promote a healthy, fit and well balanced life style.

#### EVENT

- 7:00 am – Pre-registration sign-in; walk-up registration
- 8:30 am – 5K Fun Run/Walk begins

#### COURSE

Running will begin and end at the JVHS Football Field (7600 Solomon 77040). It is a 3.1 mile trail route. Water stations and first aid kits will be available.

#### REGISTRATION FEE

Age 5 and Up - \$20.00 Under Age 5 – Free  
Make check payable to: JVABC. Free T-Shirt with registration (\*T-Shirts are guaranteed only for paid registrations submitted by January 15th!). In case of inclement weather, T-Shirts will be distributed; however, the race will not be rescheduled and refunds will not be issued. Please contact Dana Pike for registration at: [jvabcsportsprogram@gmail.com](mailto:jvabcsportsprogram@gmail.com).

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## Willowbridge/Stonebridge Neighborhood Teenage Baby-Sitters Available!

*Are you in need of baby-sitting? Contact one of the following and help our neighborhood youth earn a little extra money.*

Name	Birthday	Phone Number	Parents
Rebecca Dyer+	1998	281-955-0863	Tracy & Brian Dyer
Morgan Hurst+	1995	281-235-5641	Freddy & Kim Hurst
(Summers Only)		281-897-8910	
Rachel Sontag	1997	713-598-6792	Rosanne & Perry Sontag
Kim Cook	1997	832-237-9541	Glenn & Maureen Cook
Darien Holley	1999	713-253-8786	Darcele Holley
Brooke Sontag	2000	281-844-5978	Rosanne & Perry Sontag

+ Red Cross Certified

### Pet Sitter / Plant Watering

Tommy Hamner	1998	281-469-5782	Melissa & Findley Hamner
Rachel Sontag	1997	713-598-6792	Rosanne & Perry Sontag
Abby Cook	2000	832-237-9541	Glenn & Maureen Cook
Emily Cook	2000	832-237-9541	Glenn & Maureen Cook
Darien Holley	1999	713-253-8786	Darcele Holley
Chryssy Janoschak	1998	281-610-0939	Tammy & Mark Janoschak
Brooke Sontag	2000	281-844-5978	Rosanne & Perry Sontag
Nick Hamilton	2002	281-919-9716	Kristi and Andy Hamilton

#### ATTENTION TEENAGERS

The Teenage Job Seekers listing service is offered free of charge to all Willowbridge/Stonebridge teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to [willowbridgenews@gmail.com](mailto:willowbridgenews@gmail.com) by the 8th of the month!

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