



TALKING TRASH - "You've Been Served!"

By: Barbara Lallinger

Many of us have heard the term "You've Been Served!" either on television or possibly in person. It usually involves a process server handing over a piece of paper requiring an appearance in a courtroom. In this case, it's serving notice that we have a new trash/recycle company. Royal Waste & Recycle was sold late last year. The former owner had always wanted a waste company and to grow it. He did and then he had the opportunity to sell it. Royal was bought by Waste Corporation of America (WCA). Nothing really changes for us at this time except in the Recycling arena. According to WCA's web site they do not accept plastic bags (we will have to take them to the grocery stores), any numbered Styrofoam or wax-board containers (milk & juice cartons). WCA retained all of the employees of Royal with the exception of one none essential and also kept the pink trucks. If you have not already, you may see a blue, white or blue & white truck, in addition to the pink. The new contact phone number is: (281) 368-8397. Office hours are Monday – Thursday 8am to 5pm and Friday 8am to 4pm. If you feel like your trash was missed and it is outside business hours you may email our account rep, Randy Morgan at: rmorgan@wcamerica.com. If the trucks are still in the neighborhood, he will redirect them to your address. However, if you just missed putting it out before your street was serviced, please put it out on the next regularly scheduled pick up day.

WCA's motto is: WCA C.A.R.E.S. (Conserving and Renewing; Environmental Sustainability). WCA is a vertically integrated non-hazardous solid waste management company providing waste collection, transfer, material processing and disposal services. Commencing business in 2000 in Houston, the company has expanded under the guidance of a veteran management team to cover twelve states. They provide services to over half a million residential and commercial/ residential customers. WCA strives to be a leader in the solid waste industry and holds itself to the highest environmental and ethical standards.

LANDFILLS

Landfill gas is a mix of different gases created by the decomposition of waste within a landfill. WCA is committed to converting landfill gases into alternative beneficial uses. A portion of the gas is flared off, while another share is used to produce electricity and heat or upgraded to pipeline grade gas. While several of their landfills already have such processes in place, the Fort Bend Landfill (FBL) is working with Enerdyne on a

project to take the methane gas produced and clean it up into a high BTU standard and pipe it into a high pressure pipeline. WCA owns/ maintains the FBL, located in Needville in Fort Bend County, which produces bio natural gas for injection into natural gas pipelines. This site encompasses 1200 acres that exists on the south portion of Davis Estate Road and includes WCA's Wetlands Project which encompasses 31 acres of mitigated wetlands (this property has not had any excavation performed on it and also includes two beautiful lakes).

RECYCLING

WCA believes recycling is an integral part of the sustainability movement across America. In order to ensure that WCA has an impact in maintaining a greener planet, they have in place residential recycling programs generating over 500 TONS of recyclables per week, as well as landfill recycling programs which focus on recycling scrap metals. WCA also recycles other useful materials received from customers for roads and alternative uses. With the recycling program they are jointly able to save energy, conserve natural resources such as water, timber, and other raw materials, reduce pollution caused by the need to produce new material and help sustain the environment for future generations. SEE THE END OF THIS ARTICLE FOR RECYCLING DOS AND DO NOTS!*

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Like Royal, WCA is committed to being involved within the communities they serve. The Fort Bend Landfill, donates annually to the George Ranch. The money goes to a 501(c)(3) charitable fund which enables thousands of under privileged children to tour the George Ranch and learn more about 150+ years of Texas history.

WCA is also a supporter of Breast Cancer Research. On January 27th of this year, the WCA 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held at the Wildcat Golf Club in Houston. Players from 40 different companies along with WCA, totaling nearly 100 golfers, raised \$39,000 for Breast Cancer Research.

*WCA's curbside recycling program accepts the following items:

PAPER: Newspaper, Magazines, Catalogs, Junk Mail, Envelopes, Office Paper, Construction Paper, Colored Paper, Folders, Paper Bags, Phone Books, Holiday & Greeting Cards.

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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 – WCA.....	281-368-8397
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

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
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
George Schaudel	Secretary
Rebecca Peters.....	Treasurer
Brian Fisher.....	Director
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.
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.

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CARDBOARD: Corrugated Cardboard Boxes, Paperboard Boxes (cereal, soda/beer, egg, shoe boxes).

CONTAINERS: Aluminum Cans, Tin Cans, Steel Cans, Glass Bottles/Jars, Empty Aerosol Cans, Aluminum Foil (CLEAN), Plastics #1 - #7 (milk, soda, water, juice shampoo, detergent, pool supplies, pet food/litter), Metal Pots & Pans, Copper, Scrap Metal (nails, screws, gutters).

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS: PLASTIC BAGS, STYROFOAM, Wrapping Paper, USED Pizza Boxes, Coat Hangers, Paint & Solvent Containers, Light Bulbs, Mirrors, Windows, Dishes & Cups, Pyrex Pans, **WET*** or Soiled Paper, Paper Towels, Facial & Toilet Tissue, Disposable Plates & Cups, Milk & Juice Cartons (wax-board containers).

*This means if Paper and/or Cardboard items get wet, they will be trashed – not recycled!!

If you know it is going to rain, please consider protecting these items with a plastic bag.

HEAVY TRASH DAYS – Friday only. If your trash item (king mattress, large screen television, etc.) requires more than one person to handle, you will need to call for a special pick up and in some instances, you may have to pay additional to have the items disposed of.

WHAT IS Nextdoor

Everyone has been asking...What is Nextdoor (also referred to as Nextdoor Neighbor and Nextdoor Willowbridge)? According to their website, Nextdoor is a private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free! Thousands of neighborhoods are already using Nextdoor to build happier, safer places to call home.

Willowbridge/Stonebridge had 275+ (next goal: 300) members when we went to press. Some days you may have a single posting, others you may have 30 members from various neighborhoods chiming in! Some postings will be of interest to you, some may bore you to tears. Julie Dubois, our Security Liason has started posting alerts to the site. You can view what's happening in Willowbridge/Stonebridge and lots of surrounding neighborhoods. As we all know, many dogs get "dumped" in our neighborhood (some are just lost) and posting lost/found animal signs on the stop signs in our neighborhood may not help if the dog swam across the bayou from Jersey Village or Winchester so this may be a partial answer to the problem.

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People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike
- Finally call that nice man down the street by his first name

Nextdoor's mission is to use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods. The company was created because they believe that the neighborhood is one of the most important and useful communities in a person's life. Based in San Francisco, California, Nextdoor was founded in 2010 and is funded by Benchmark Capital, Greylock Partners, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Tiger Global Management, and Shasta Ventures as well as other investors and Silicon Valley angels.

PRIVACY

Fences are sometimes necessary. But online privacy is always necessary. Nextdoor makes it safe to share online the kinds of things you'd be okay sharing with your neighbors in person. Here's how:

- Every neighbor has to verify their address.
- Every neighbor signs in with their real name, just like in person.
- Your website is protected by password and encrypted by HTTPS.
- We never share your info with advertisers.
- Answer fellow members' questions.
- Share information about crime and safety issues.
- Recommend local businesses and services (without spamming or inappropriate self-promotion).
- Sell, share, or give away personal items that you no longer want or need.
- Discuss community issues (but avoid campaigning).
- Spread the word about local events.



HOUSTON ZOO

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GRAB YOUR BATHING SUIT, YOU'RE INVITED TO A POOL PARTY!

The HOA board has voted to open the pool on two Saturdays this year prior to the permanent summer schedule to give us more pool time. On Saturday, May 2, the pool will be open from 10:30 am to 8:30 pm for Family Fun Day in the Park (replaces the Spring Festival). This event will include food, drink and entertainment. The pool will again be open on Saturday May 16 from 10:30 am to 8:30 pm.

The board also voted to extend pool hours this year, from 10:30 am to 8:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. As noted in an earlier edition of WillowTalk, we will also have Splash Day in late July or early August (watch for details in WillowTalk and on the marquee).

Wristbands will be required for pool entry again this year. In fact, due to the snafu from the manufacturer last year, resulting in getting them late, the bands have already been ordered and will be distributed prior to May 2nd. Watch for distribution dates & times via the WillowTalk and the marquee.

Pool Schedule

- May 2 (Saturday) 10:30 am – 8:30 pm**
Family Fun Day in the Park
- May 16 (Saturday) 10:30 am – 8:30 pm**
Extra Day
- May 23 (Saturday) 10:30 am – 8:30 pm**
Memorial Day Weekend
- May 24 (Sunday) 12 noon – 8:00 pm**
Memorial Day Weekend
- May 25 (Monday) 10:30 am – 8:30 pm**
Memorial Day
- June 5 (Friday) 10:30 am – 8:30 pm**
First Day of Summer Schedule

Pool CLOSED Mondays

Pool OPEN Tuesday – Saturday 10:30 am – 8:30 pm

Pool OPEN Sunday 12 Noon – 8:00 pm

Just a REMINDER....last year many residents were surprised to learn that they owed funds to the HOA which prevented them from picking up their wristbands.

If you have questions regarding amounts due prior to wristband pickup times please contact Graham Management at (281) 497-4320.

THE SCHOOL ZONE

GLEASON ES

- 03/02 (M) Back Yard Grill - SN
- 03/06 (F) Field Day (Volunteers Needed)
- 03/10 (T) Orange Leaf – SD
- 03/19 - 13 SPRING BREAK
- 04/06 (M) Back Yard Grill – SN
- 04/11 (S) CARNIVAL & AUCTION
2 – 7 PM (Volunteers Needed)
- 04/13 - 17 National Library Week
- 04/20 - 24 Public School Volunteer Week
- 04/23 (Th) Chik-fil-A – SN

Don't forget that fundraising kicked off again when students returned in January. The first Carnival/Auction Committee meetings were held January 29th. Gleason is looking for donations from merchants in the form of merchandise, services and/or gift cards. In addition, donations are being sought from Sponsors to cover the cost of carnival rides and games. Sponsorship Levels are:

Tiger Pride: \$1,000 – A vinyl company banner with Logo displayed on carnival grounds. A dedicated Sponsor Table at carnival

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for your company brochures/cards. Company Logo included on Sponsor Banner at the event.

Gleason Pride: \$500 – Shared Sponsor Table at event for company brochures/cards. Company Logo included on Sponsor Banner at event.

Gold Level: \$250 – Your Company Logo included on Sponsor Banner at event.

Blue Level: \$100

All of the above Levels include: Spoken acknowledgement at the event and your company name in Gleason's PAWS newsletter. To be a Sponsor: Contact Kristah Slate, Silent Auction Chairperson at (713) 882-7699 or Kristah_Slate@yahoo.com.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Cub Scout Pack 866 (Gleason ES) will be dropping off empty paper bags to your doorstep on Saturday, February 28, for collection of non-perishable food and personal care items. Please leave donations on your porch no later than 8:00 am the following Saturday (March 7).

This Pack's collections support Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM). For more information or questions, please contact Matt Pena at (281) 974-7527 or matt_pena@yahoo.com



Pet Place

Reasons to "Scoop the Poop"

by Jennifer Magness, DVM

Dogs are a very popular pet and are found in many households. There are 70 million pet dogs in the United States alone. Opening up your home to a dog also means accepting responsibility for that pet, including cleaning up their waste.

Most people have heard the term "scoop the poop" but some people may not have heard the reasons why this is so important. Some people view dog feces (or what most people call dog poop) as a good fertilizer, but this is actually a myth. Dog diets mostly contain animal products such as chicken and turkey. Thus, a dog's waste contains substances created by the breakdown of the animal products. It does not enrich the soil for plants such as grass.

If not picked up, dog feces can enter waterways via storm drains after it rains. Nitrogen in the feces depletes the oxygen from the water, and the water is made harmful to fish and other aquatics. It is often listed as the third leading cause of water pollution.

Dog feces are also considered an environmental pollutant as it contains harmful organisms. One gram of dog feces may contain as much as 23 million bacteria. Harmful bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli can be found in dog feces. Parasites such as Giardia, Cryptosporidium, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms may also be found. Many of the parasites (usually in a resistant egg form) linger in the environment for years, even if the rest of the dog feces breaks down over time. Both bacteria and parasites are health hazards for both humans and animals that come in contact with them.

Besides the "ick" factor of stepping in dog poop and the unpleasant odor of it, dog feces can serve to attract pests (such as flies) and rodents (such as rats). Being a responsible pet owner and scooping your dog's poop is important for the community health of both humans and animals. It helps Improve local water quality. Scooping your dog's poop also promotes favorable views towards dogs by others in the community.



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