
Willow Meadows News

February 1997

March Meeting

The next meeting of the Willow Meadows Civic Club is Tuesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Willow Meadows Baptist Church. Please come and take part in what is going on in your neighborhood.

From The President

Best wishes to you and your family as we enter a new year. I am very pleased to be working with a great group of officers and board members in 1997. Most of the great team we had in 1996 has volunteered to work for you again in this new year, and the two new officers came on board with lots of enthusiasm. I hope you will join me in encouraging their efforts this year.

As with the beginning of each year, we must push hard for the dues collection. These dues are very important, as they pay for 60 hours per week of constable patrol, they pay for upkeep of the West Belfort esplanade, they pay for summertime mosquito spraying, and they cover any capital improvement projects we may undertake in our neighborhood. In 1997, there will be a significant outlay for legal expenses as we work on updating the deed restrictions, as well as tax exempt status. We need your support, and we hope you appreciate that this is money well spent.

I hope you like this newsletter. We received so much good information from many of your neighbors that unfortunately we couldn't fit it all in, but we think you'll like the news and tips within. In addition, you will notice in this newsletter that there are some great ideas coming forth from your neighbors on how to improve our neighborhood. We believe Willow Meadows is a great place to live, and we can make it even better. Your input and help always will be greatly appreciated.

Please plan to come to our next Civic Club meeting on March 4 at the Willow Meadows Baptist Church. There we will provide the most current information on neighborhood projects, as well as other surrounding activities. Your comments are always welcome at these meetings.

Sincerely

Chris Brouwer

1997 Willow Meadows Civic Club Officers and Executive Board

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| President: | Chris Brouwer (723-9235) | Security: | Jane Leslie (729-4918) |
| Vice President | Charles Rusciano (721-3136) | Maintenance: | Harry Boswell (728-5208) |
| Treasurer: | Dean Gore (729-7935) | Deed Restrictions: | Doug Koy (723-0067) |
| Secretary: | Ruth Tynes (729-1477) | Architecture: | Rob Chase (723-4878) |
| | | Beautification: | Randall Doe (297-5648) |

TREASURER'S REPORT

This report summarizes the 1996 end of year figures relative to our 1996 budget. Further below, you will see the latest 1997 figures. As you know, our primary source of revenue is your dues, so please submit your annual dues of \$150 as soon as possible to: Willow Meadows Civic Club, P.O. Box 35551, Houston, TX 77235.

| Category/Description | Jan. 1-Dec 31, '96 | 1996 Budget |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| REVENUES | | |
| Dues | \$81,200.00 | \$78,830.00 |
| Interest checking | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Interest savings | 2,807.51 | 2,800.00 |
| Advertising | 180.00 | 0.00 |
| Other Income | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total | \$84,187.51 | \$81,630.00 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Bank charge | \$ 14.50 | \$ 0.00 |
| Donations | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 565.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Mowing | 4,400.00 | 4,000.00 |
| Pest control | 3,501.94 | 2,700.00 |
| Postage | 339.20 | 750.00 |
| Printing | 1,198.27 | 641.00 |
| Security | 58,039.27 | 57,750.00 |
| Supplies | 164.37 | 0.00 |
| Legal Services | 1,958.05 | 2,000.00 |
| Total | \$ 70,680.60 | \$68,841.00 |
| SURPLUS | \$ 13,506.91 | \$12,789.00 |

NEWS ARTICLES WELCOME

We will always welcome any ideas or news you may have for the Willow Meadows newsletter. We believe this newsletter should be used for communicating anything of interest to our neighborhood. Please contact Chris Brouwer if you want to contribute a news item.

Please note below our income statement through January 1997, as well as our budget for the full year 1997.

| Category/Description | Jan. 1-Jan. 31, '97 | 1997 Budget |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| REVENUES | | |
| Dues | \$ 50,575.00 | \$81,000.00 |
| Interest checking | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Interest savings | 0.00 | 2,800.00 |
| Advertising | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| Other Income | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total | \$ 50,575.00 | \$84,200.00 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Bank charge | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Donations | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Mowing | 0.00 | 4,400.00 |
| Pest control | 0.00 | 3,500.00 |
| Postage | 404.79 | 550.00 |
| Printing | 0.00 | 600.00 |
| Security | 5,101.00 | 61,400.00 |
| Supplies | 0.00 | 150.00 |
| Legal Services | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Total | \$ 5,505.79 | \$77,100.00 |
| SURPLUS | \$ 45,069.21 | \$7,100.00 |

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need a Coffee Coordinator to set up the coffee pot and sign-in sheet before each quarterly meeting. No experience required! Expert training provided! If you can arrive 20 minutes before our Civic Club meetings, we would love your help. Please call Ruth Tynes at 723-1477 for more information.

We are preparing a "Welcome Packet" for new homeowners. Be part of this team that determines what to put in this welcome packet or help us distribute these to your new neighbors. This is an exciting opportunity to meet your new neighbors and share your pride in the neighborhood. Interested? Please call Chris Brouwer at 723-9235.

GARBAGE COLLECTION

We apologize for our errata in the November newsletter. We had received incorrect information. If you live on the north side of Loop 610, your garbage collection day is Tuesday; if you live south of Loop 610, your garbage collection day is Friday. It is a City ordinance that your garbage is not to be put out earlier than the evening prior to your garbage collection and the can is to be retrieved from the curbside no later than the evening of the trash collection. You may or may not like the new containers provided by the City, but your neighbors like you even less if you don't retrieve your containers promptly. Please note: If you would like a smaller container or need an additional container, please call the Solid Waste Department at 551-7300.

Here are some important points regarding rubbish collection in Willow Meadows:

- Place your container face-front to the curb, with the handle facing towards your house.
- Keep the container away from cars parked along the curb and away from overhead trees, especially if you don't want the large trucks to damage your tree branches.
- Bags of grass clippings and leaves should also be placed at curbside on normal trash pick-up days, but keep them 3 feet away from the containers.
- Don't forget the monthly Heavy Trash pick-up on the 4th Wednesday of every month for those items too large for these trash bins and which are not otherwise recyclable.
- Recycling with your green box-style containers is every other Tuesday (changes to Wednesdays when there is a Monday city holiday).

Please note the schedule exceptions indicated in the Recycling News section further in this newsletter.

Residents may also dispose of heavy trash items before the scheduled Heavy Trash pick-up by going to one of the City's three neighborhood depository facilities. There you can dispose of furniture, appliances, tree limbs, remodeling rubbish, etc. You are permitted to dispose of up to four automobile tires per household per three month period. Depositories are open 7 days per week, except holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You must have a Texas Drivers

License and a current utility bill as proof of residence. These facilities are located at:

SOUTHEAST: 9200 Lawndale, tel: 926-1247

SOUTH: 5100 Sunbeam, tel: 738-1936

NORTHEAST: 5565 Kirkpatrick, tel: 675-3208

Household Hazardous Wastes, such as antifreeze, batteries, paint, paint thinners, household cleaners and pesticides, are prohibited from normal and heavy trash collections. For proper hazardous waste disposal, please call 247-8589. The next Hazardous Waste Collection is Saturday, March 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 8200 Park Terrace (off 610 East and Broadway Blvd.).

THANK YOU!

As you know, elections for the 1997 Civic Club officers were held at the December meeting. Unfortunately, with few volunteers for the positions, there wasn't much of a debate over new officers. The President and Vice President will return for another year, while we are happy to welcome some new blood, with Dean Gore taking over as Treasurer and Ruth Tynes taking over as secretary. We are confident with the experience of this group and look forward to working with this strong team in 1997.

We wish to extend a very big THANK YOU to our departing officers, Joanne Gore and Veronica McKenzie, who both did an outstanding job for the Civic Club.

THANK YOU, TOO!

You should have received your Dues Notice in the mail during the first week of January. The quick payment of dues is very important to an efficient use of our funds and proper budgeting. We are very pleased by the early response, with more than 45% of the neighborhood sending in their dues within the first month. Thank you very much!

You may also appreciate that it is quite a job to handle the Dues Notice mailing, and we were fortunate to have many volunteers to help us with this arduous task. Special thanks to Stan Leachman who arranged all the envelopes, labels, insert cards and the expertise on how to put the whole mailing together. Another big thanks

to our volunteer team who sat around the table on New Year's Day, sorting, stuffing, sticking, and stamping more than 800 mail outs; we couldn't have done it without Greg, Harry, Don, Robin and Chris.

SPEED HUMPS: AN UPDATE

You have probably seen lots of news articles about speed humps throughout the city. They are the most promoted idea for speed control in neighborhoods, and the city is budgeting for quite a few speed humps throughout the city. Before long, officials have joked, Houston may have signs at the city limits warning of speed humps ahead. Nevertheless, the city has taken an approach of prioritizing residential streets with a high traffic count and an average speed in excess of 30 mph.

The last qualifying factor is the percentage of residents on a street that are in favor of the speed humps on their own street.

We have informed you in previous newsletters that four sections of Willow Meadows streets that were applied for did qualify for speed humps based on traffic counts and excessive speeding. During the allocation of funds in December 1996, only one section was funded. You should see speed humps installed on Greenwillow between Loop 610 and the Willow Meadows Baptist Church within the next few months. The three sections which were not funded during this round will automatically be reconsidered every 6 months during 3 more funding cycles.

As a reminder of how serious the traffic problem can get, we had another serious accident in January, where a neighbor's vehicle was struck while turning into his driveway. The two vehicles were heavily damaged, and a brick wall on the side of the house was destroyed. This makes the second home in recent years to be damaged in an accident along Greenwillow.

If anyone is interested in the actual statistics for the street sections which were monitored in 1996, we will be happy to provide that information at the next Civic Club meeting.

TAX EXEMPTION

One of the projects undertaken by the Civic Club Board in 1996 was to update all of our legal paperwork. We discovered by surprise early last year that our charter

had lapsed and tax exemption had not been properly applied for. We are now pleased to announce that early last year we were reincorporated with the State of Texas. Following that, we applied for tax exempt status with the IRS and the preliminary finding was not in our favor. This disappointed many of us, but we later learned that the IRS is cracking down on such applications and less likely to pass a favorable judgment very readily. We enlisted legal services to appeal this decision and in January of this year, we received our favorable ruling as a tax exempt organization in accordance with 501 (c) 4. What does this ruling mean for us? It means that the civic club does not have to pay sales taxes on the services we use, and we do not have to pay income taxes on the dues and interest, as all of these revenues go back into our community. We are sorry to report that this does not make your dues tax deductible! If you have any questions on this tax exemption process, please contact Chris Brouwer.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Excitement grows when everybody knows. So...hear ye, hear ye! The Meyer Corporation is currently installing a watering system on five islands along West Bellfort from South Post Oak to Meyer Forest Drive. This is the first stage of a beautiful landscaping project that will include new trees and crepe myrtles. The completion date has been moved several times due to recent unstable weather conditions. Anticipation draweth nigh! Combine this professional new image with the Greenwillow Garden Club's input (see below) and this will surely be one of the most attractive esplanades in the city.

To further enhance the continuity of the esplanade, the civic club recognizes the need to give a "face-lift" to the area between Cliffwood toward the railroad tracks. It is currently being reviewed as a Neighborhood Matching Grant pilot program project with the City of Houston Planning and Development Department. This program will provide up to \$5000 in matching funds to selected neighborhood organizations to complete a variety of neighborhood improvement projects.

The Civic Club is reviewing various ideas to utilize the matching grant funds. Additional ideas include rebuilding the entrance signs between our subdivision and Willow Bend at Greenwillow, Willowick, Cliffwood and Willowgrove; building a new entrance

sign to the subdivision at Braeswood and Greenwillow; Willow Park improvements; or any combination of the above. The application deadline is April 18. Therefore, any other ideas for neighborhood improvements should be submitted in writing before April 8 to Harry Boswell, 4422 Cheena, Houston 77096.

As one might deduce, the subdivision is experiencing a resurrection much like our neighbors to the north of us. These improvements will not only improve our property values, but the pride gained from a beautiful neighborhood will present our neighborhood in the 21st century as a community with vision and diligence. If you would like to be a part of this vision, contact any of your civic club board members to express your desire to be a civic club volunteer.

CIVIC CLUB GETS GREEN THUMB

The Greenwillow Garden Club has agreed to be a part of various efforts to beautify Willow Meadows subdivision. The garden club is now associated with the beautification efforts by offering more expertise in gardening plans and is the unbiased judge in the decision making process of "Yard of the Month".

There are several new plans adopted for implementation in 1997. The garden club and maintenance chairman have agreed on three new projects. First, the garden club will assist in identifying areas around the subdivision for seasonal color and general beautification. Second, the garden club will identify a "Yard of the Month" from February through October, plus assist the maintenance chairman in identifying a first and second place "Holiday Yard of the Month" in December. Lastly, the garden club will coordinate efforts to implement garden areas of seasonal color. The maintenance chairman, resident volunteers, and the Meyer Corporation landscaping staff will team up with the garden club to make the garden areas a success. The areas currently under consideration are seasonal gardens around the two Willow Meadows signs on West Belfort.

The combined efforts of the Greenwillow Garden Club and the Willow Meadows Civic Club will provide exciting new possibilities for a beautifully landscaped subdivision. For information on being a residential volunteer, contact Harry Boswell at 728-5208. For more information about the Greenwillow Club, contact Sandy Crow at 721-9763 or Melva Reed at 729-5527.

OTHER NEWS AROUND YOU

You may recall our announcement of the renovations of the shopping center at Stella Link and Loop 610 in the last newsletter. A recent public meeting at Corpus Christi Catholic Church reviewed this project as well as the upcoming rebuilding of Stella Link. Because of the major negative impact that the street construction could have on new stores, the remodeling has been pushed back a bit. We expect to see activity starting this summer on the center, with a brand new Food City slated to open in January 1998. Other tenants, including a restaurant, an auto parts store and a Houston Police storefront should be opening at the end of this year. Contrary to information in a local newspaper, Cloth World will no longer be in the center.

The Stella Link rebuilding should begin late this spring, having been delayed by some design modifications. We were informed that the street and sidewalks, as well as water and sewer lines, will be completely replaced from Braeswood to South Main. North of Braeswood to Gramercy is not in such bad shape and will be spot repaired. After much discussion, it appears that Stella Link will remain four lanes wide (two in each direction), with the exception of 1100 feet north and south of the Loop which will be widened to six lanes. Some median crossings will be modified and restricted in these six lane sections. Our District C Councilmember Martha Wong promised that South Braeswood will be next on her list for rebuilding, and I am sure those of you who travel that street east of Stella Link can attest to its poor condition.

DEED RESTRICTIONS

Since our last meeting, there has been only one formal complaint filed in writing. This concerns alleged business activity at a house on Firestone. The Civic Club is currently reviewing the complaint.

The Deed Restriction Modernization Project continues at a good pace! Since our first meeting last October, our great group of volunteers has pieced together an extensive draft copy. Following individual review, they have met an additional 3 times to discuss the best options for the general neighborhood. That final draft is now under legal review. After any legal comments have been incorporated, EVERY ONE OF US will

have a chance to review the complete document and indicate your comments on each individual section. Once that review is complete, every one of us will again receive the final documents for signature.

If you have any other questions regarding the deed restriction project, or if you have some time to help us in the final steps of this project, please feel free to call any of the Civic Club board members.

The Deed Restriction Complaint Form has been eliminated from this edition in the interest of space. If you need a Form, please contact Doug Koy.

RECYCLING REPORT

The schedule for recycling in the coming months is as follows:

February 18, March 4 & 18, April 1, 15 & 29, May 13 & 28 (Wednesday following Memorial Day).

Acceptable materials for curbside recycling include aluminum and tin cans, #1 and #2 plastics, glass bottles and jars, telephone books, newspapers, magazines and used motor oil.

Don't forget: Heavy trash pick-up is the fourth Wednesday of every month. It is a violation of City ordinance to put heavy trash out for pick-up earlier than the weekend preceding scheduled collection. The schedule for the coming months is:

February 26, March 26, April 23, May 29 (Thursday following Memorial Day).

CIVIC CLUB DUES

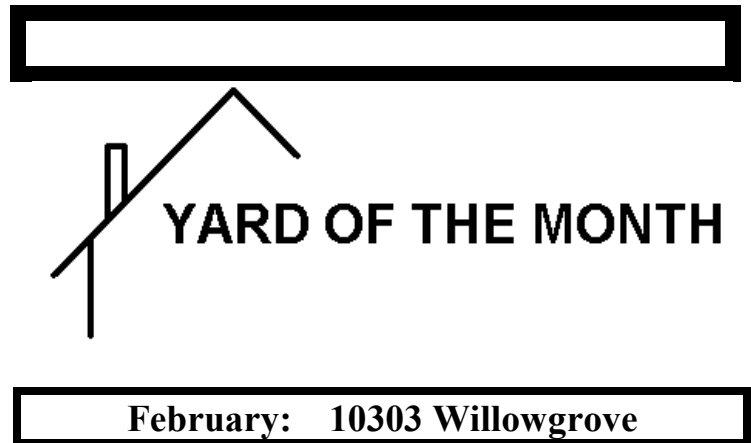
This is a reminder that Civic Club Dues are payable at the first of each year. We are off to a great start, with more than 45% of all households paying within the first month. This is 8% better than last year at this time, so we are well on our way to beating the 70% participation last year. But how about that remaining 30%? You too benefit from the constable patrol, as well as the mosquito spraying, the esplanade maintenance, and this newsletter, as well as all the behind-the-scenes work by your volunteers.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, or if you misplaced your dues notice, please make your check for \$150 payable to Willow Meadows Civic Club, and mail it to

P.O. Box 35551, Houston, TX 77235. Don't forget to indicate how many security stickers you would like. Members also will receive our new 1997 neighborhood directory.

For your information, here are the percentages of dues paying members by street through January. How is your street doing?

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Breakwood: 37% | O'Meara: 49% |
| Cheena: 54% | Osby: 38% |
| Cliffwood: 42% | Piermain: 27% |
| Firestone: 48% | Sarong: 58% |
| Greenwillow: 43% | Silverwood: 50% |
| Knickerbocker: 59% | Waynesboro: 37% |
| Lemac: 44% | Wigton: 34% |
| Lymbar: 52% | Willowgrove: 53% |
| McDermed: 46% | Willowisp: 33% |
| Meyerwood: 57% | Woodvalley: 39% |
| Nenana: 42% | |



Recipients of Yard of the Month will receive a sign for the month plus a gift certificate for use at Wolfe's Nursery presented by Morgan Personette Properties.

OUTDOOR TIPS

Well maintained and landscaped yards are a pleasure to look at, and all realtors will confirm that nice landscaping adds to the value of your home. We will use this column to provide tips on landscaping and seasonal maintenance of one of your best assets.

CREPE MYRTLE MURDER? The middle of February is the best time to trim Crepe Myrtles, but it is not necessary to butcher them. Pruning does not inspire

flowering. The ideal approach to pruning is to maintain the natural shape, but remove suckers and small branches generally smaller in diameter than a pencil. Don't continuously prune back to the same spot to create a "knuckle", but instead remove limbs flush to the trunk.

TREE TRIMMING The dramatic ice storm in January did a lot of damage to our beautiful trees. If your trees suffered severe limb loss, consider a professional to evaluate and properly clean up the damage. All large shade trees could use a professional thinning of their dense canopies from time to time in order to avoid such damage due to ice or the more common hurricanes and wind storms.

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN NOW Now is a good time to fertilize lawns and shrubs. Do not feed fruit trees now or they may lose the fruit. Leave azaleas alone until the blooms start to fade, then you can feed them at six week intervals through the spring. Azaleas can also be cut back after the blooms. Moving plants or adding new plants is best at this time of year to allow them some time to get established before our summer heat.

SECURITY REPORT

PLEASE NOTE: NEW PHONE NUMBER. Shortly after our December Civic Club meeting, the Precinct 7 Constable office was relocated, and with that comes a new phone number. **NOTE THE NEW NUMBER: 643-6602.**

Since the first of the year our Contract Constable program has experienced several staffing changes. Corporal Joe Cerda has been promoted to Sergeant and now supervises Precinct 7's contract patrol division. Sergeant Cerda is also assuming our 40-hour position. Many residents may recognize him as the officer who drives the Camaro patrol car. He previously worked as Willowbend's full time officer but was very visible in our neighborhood as well. We also have a new 20-hour officer, Deputy Balthazar.

Sergeant Cerda has made some scheduling changes in order to maximize the coverage provided. He also plans to schedule more Reserve Deputies to supplement our regular coverage and help fill gaps when we normally would not have anyone in the area.

We are happy to report that criminal activity in our area is down compared to a few months ago. The following is a list of more serious problems experienced recently:

Nov. 19 - Sheriff Deputies working in the area of Greenwillow south of W. Bellfort were alerted to two suspicious Hispanic males during the mid morning. Precinct 7 Constables also became involved in a chase through the neighborhood. The suspects reportedly jumped several fences through various backyards and eventually escaped at Braes Bayou.

Jan. 9 - 4300 blk. Sarong: Suspected prowler between the hours of 1 a. m. and 6 a. m. Resident reported seeing a male suspect on her property on several occasions but has been unable to get a good look at the suspect.

Jan. 23 - 4300 blk. Sarong: Burglary of a residence. Someone entered a home through a bathroom window during the day and took jewelry and camera equipment.

Jan. 25 - Greenwillow at Wigton: A vehicle attempted to pass a resident as he was pulling into his driveway from Greenwillow. The resident's vehicle was struck in the side and was pushed into a brick wall next to his garage. Illegal passing was cited as the cause of the accident.

Feb. 1 - 10200 blk. Greenwillow: Attempted burglary. A suspicious looking white male was seen at address and fled on foot when spotted by resident. Suspect left a bicycle at the scene.

Feb. 6 - 4300 blk. Sarong: Criminal mischief on property sometime during afternoon (after 3:00 p.m.).

We have also had reports of yards being trenched in the area. If you experience this problem, please let the Constable know about it. In an earlier yard trenching incident on Wigton, the Constable was able to locate the individual responsible. This person has since made restitution to a resident whose sprinkler system was damaged.

Please remember that if HPD handles a call, the Constable will not be aware of your complaint because they are not on the same radio frequency as HPD. If you are faced with a situation where you feel

that your immediate safety is in peril, you should always call 911 first. You should also call the Constable at 643-6602 because they may have a car close by and arrive before HPD. It is important that the Constable be made aware of any security problems that are experienced in our neighborhood. If HPD handles a call, please follow up with Precinct 7 by calling their dispatcher and requesting that they send a deputy by your home to discuss the incident.

The Civic Club board members and the Security Chairperson often receive calls from residents regarding security problems they have recently experienced. It often turns out that they have never called the Constable to report what happened and seem reluctant to bother the Constable. Please remember that the Contract Constable is a service that dues paying members are funding. All security problems are important and residents should not feel shy about calling and requesting service from the Constable. They are here to provide service to you and are very happy to be of assistance to you.

With spring around the corner, Sergeant Cerda reminds us to be watchful of individuals in the neighborhood mowing yards. Driving around the area with a lawnmower in the back of a car or truck provides an excellent cover to someone with a criminal intent. Also remember to keep your garage doors shut and not to leave lawn equipment, bicycles and other easily stolen items out and unattended. We will also probably see a lot of garage sale activity soon. Garage sales are a great way for families to make a little cash while disposing of stuff they no longer want. The down side of garage sales is that they bring a lot of traffic into the neighborhood. Please be aware of the activities of strangers in the area visiting spring garage sales. If you note suspicious behavior please call the Constable.

REDUCE YOUR HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE PREMIUM

You may qualify to receive a discount on your Homeowner's Insurance premium. Your home must meet several requirements regarding the type of locking devices for doors and windows. The Constable has information available which lists the requirements and will be happy to mail or drop this information by your home. Once you have made any changes that may be required to qualify, the Constable

will come out and conduct a brief security inspection. He will then issue a certificate that you can present to your insurance company for a reduction in your premium. You may want to check with your insurance agent to see how much you can save.

This is a great way to update your home security especially for residents who may not have alarm systems. Most of the homes in Willow Meadows were built in an age where we left windows open at night and did not always remember to lock our doors. Times have certainly changed but have you ever changed or supplemented the original door locks in your home? Have you ever thought that the original locking devices on your windows might not adequately deter an intruder? Please call the Constable at 643-6602 to request this free service.

GOOD THINGS ARE GROWING AT RED ELEMENTARY

Red Elementary continues, as it has always, to be an academically strong, high quality elementary school that parents and community can be proud of. It is made up of an excellent faculty and administration, active parent body, caring staff, wonderful blend of young students. - and - an increasingly involved and supportive neighborhood community.

Last summer, Red said goodbye to Virginia Westmoreland - our beloved principal who retired with the 1995-96 school year - and welcomed Ms. Maureen Huff, who joined us from HISD's Southwest District Office. Ms. Huff has a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, worked at Welch Middle School for seven years as Dean of Instruction, and taught in HISD for nearly eleven years. Though administrative changes can be difficult for a school, we can only report smooth sailing here! It's been a great year so far!

There are a couple of things that those in the neighborhood who don't have children at Red might be interested in knowing: First of all, Red's events are community affairs - everyone's welcome. Coming up on February 21 (6:00 PM) is the Auction / Dinner / Talent Show (got a favorite accordion number you'd like to play perhaps?) In April, we'll have a Walkathon to raise funds for the outdoor classroom we're planning to build. Attending functions such as these at Red can really help one get comfortable with this place and its people, besides being fun. (It's an especially good idea if you're a family with children who are not school age yet.) Secondly, Red has a growing

tutoring program that makes a significant difference for the students as well as the school's overall TAAS test scores. For an hour a week, tutoring is a tremendously rewarding use of one's time. I encourage you to contact Maureen Huff if you're even a little interested.

All of us have a reason to consider Red Elementary a neighborhood treasure. Come get involved and find out for yourself. (Contributed by Red parent Maureen Maillette)

RED PRE-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Red Pre-school will hold its annual Open House on March 1st from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Parents and their pre-school age children are invited to visit the school, meet the teachers and staff and enjoy refreshments. Registration for the 1997 - 1998 school year will be open to new students at this time.

Red Pre-school was founded in 1981 as a tuition based pre-school program operating on the campus of S. C. Red Elementary. It is located at 4520 Tonawanda in Classrooms 1 and 2. The goal of the Red Pre-school program is to provide the Red Elementary community with a quality, moderately priced pre-k program for children ages 3 - 5. This complete program provides families an excellent beginning school experience while offering an opportunity to become familiar with Red Elementary school.

Red Pre-school offers a five day program which follows the schedule of Red Elementary. Daily hours are from 8 a. m. to 3:00 p. m. There are also a limited number of half-day slots.

For additional information or to schedule an individual classroom visit please call Red Pre-school at 728-4704.

FREE LOCAL SEMINARS

The Southwest Central Church of Christ, 4011 West Bellfort at Stella Link, will be offering a series of free seminars to the public as part of it's Community Enrichment Series. Please call 667-9417 for more information or registration. A sampling of upcoming seminars:

1. Feb. 22, 1-3 p.m.: ITS GARDENING TIME
2. Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m.-12: FAST FOODS THAT DON'T TASTE FAST
3. March 1, 9-4: DEFENSIVE DRIVING (not free)
4. March 8, 9 a.m.-12: PARENTING WITH LOVE

5. March 8, 1-3 p.m.: NAVIGATING THE INTERNET
6. March 15, 9 a.m.-12: FINANCIAL PLANNING

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| PRECINCT 7 CONSTABLES: | 643-6602 |
| EMERGENCY: | 911 |
| POISON CONTROL: | 654-1701 |
| MAYOR'S OFFICE: | 247-1888 |
| MARTHA WONG, DIST. C: | 247-2004 |
| CITY SWITCHBOARD: | 247-1000 |
| WATER/SEWER REPAIRS: | 754-0600 |
| NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION: | 525-2525 |
| TRAFFIC LIGHT/SIGN REPAIRS: | 865-4000 |

WILLOW MEADOWS COMPLAINT FORM

DEED RESTRICTIONS

All deed restriction complaints are reviewed and appropriate steps taken for enforcement. Complainants are advised in writing of the Board's actions on their complaints. Please use the form below to report suspected violations.

**WILLOW MEADOWS CIVIC CLUB
P.O. BOX 35551
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77235
DEED RESTRICTIONS COMPLAINT FORM**

NAME OF
COMPLAINANT _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE # _____

NATURE OF COMPLAINT: (Please be specific - Give Names, Addresses, Dates, Details)

If legal action would be required, are you willing to be a complainant and appear in court as a witness if absolutely necessary? _____

Do you know of any other residents in your section of Willow Meadows who will also appear in court if necessary? _____

Please mail your completed form to the address above. Your name will not be divulged unless you are a complainant in a lawsuit.

REAL ESTATE CORNER

The real estate market is great! We have strong demand for houses in our area, but less than average sales last year due to less available houses. There are only 13 listings in our area, much less than normal, but with ambitious prices. Some homes remodeled with new kitchens and bathrooms are demanding over \$80/ft². Here's the breakdown:

- 13 Current Active Listings: \$120 - \$220,000, average listing \$158,000
- 1996 Sales: 31 Houses from \$75 - \$190,000, average sale price \$129,500
- 1996 Average \$58/ ft²
- Average Days on Market 101 Days
- Sale Price was 94% of List Price

Note that the above figures are from the MLS and while deemed reliable may not be guaranteed.

You may not have seen the article in the Houston Chronicle (Dec. 15, 96) about people returning to neighborhoods they grew up in. David Montz, one of our "homegrown" real estate agents, was quoted as saying "There's a comfort factor, I know everyone there. I know the stores. I know all the people who live in the area. It just worked for me. There's a sense of community."

1997 CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

MARCH 4

JUNE 3

SEPTEMBER 9

DECEMBER 2