

June Meeting

The next meeting of the Willow Meadows Civic Club is Tuesday, June 1st, 7:30 at the Willow Meadows Baptist Church. Please come and take part in what is going on in your neighborhood.

Willow Meadows News

May 1999

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From The President

Dear Willow Meadows Residents:

Our civic club (Association) has been busier since the start of 1999 than at any time in years past. I am glad that we have been able to expand and find new blood to help us develop more capabilities to provide services we expect. I am proud to say that each individual on this Board is providing hands-on dealing with each challenge we face. I am proud to be associated with each member.

Present concerns include (as always) deed restriction violations. I want to remind everyone to read their copy of the deed restrictions which were published at the back of the 1999 directory. Several letters of warning have been issued. Our restrictions require the civic club to issue a warning for violations of the provisions, and allow 6 months for the repair to be made. We are examining each complaint submitted in writing and are utilizing a committee of three or more to individually view the purported violations, and decipher each matter as: 1) potential violation, 2) definite violation or 3) no violation. One of the most common problems is when wood surfaces are not maintained and painted. That does not mean that we have to repaint our entire house if one square inch of paint chips off and exposes the wood surface. We are reasonable people.

Andrew and I have met with outside legal counsel to begin formulating protocols for dealing with all problems, including deed restrictions. There are many legal duties the Board must oversee and monitor. For any volunteer, there is a tremendous amount of paperwork, phone calling, and E-mailing. We want to leave all future Boards with certain guidelines and organizational tools to make consistency a goal and a pledge. We are working hard to achieve that.

Recent controversy exists over Braes Bayou Association business which I believe needs to be addressed at our next general meeting. There is a split of opinion as to what Braes Bayou Association should do in backing one proposal over another. We will ask Hugh Rafferty to give us some insight about the entire situation at the next general meeting.

Remember that summertime is upon us. Now is a good time to start getting yard projects underway. Mosquito spraying will have started by the time you receive this letter. The sprayings are scheduled for Friday evenings (late); so if you want minimum exposure for outdoor pets, please bring them indoors on Friday night.

Have a nice summer,
Charles D. Rusciano

TREASURER’S REPORT

by Rich Bernardy

The schedule below summarizes and compares year-to-date 1999 activity to the WMCC 1999 budget. Some of the discrepancies are a result of timing differences between the monthly allocation of the annual budget and actual income/expense results. Deed Restriction Enforcement is under budget and is the primary expense benefit. We should anticipate an increase in this category as the Board pursues various complaints and issues already identified for action. Through the end of April, we have received dues payments from over 76% of WM homeowners. The Board will be sending out reminders to those owners who have not

made the first half 1999 payments as required under the deed restrictions. As the annual dues is our

Subcategory	1/1/99 Actual	To Budgeted	4/30/99
Expense Categories			
Bank Charges		33.32	33.32
<u>Charitable Donations</u>			
Red Elementary		83.32	83.32
United Orthodox Synagogue		41.68	41.68
Willow Meadows Baptist		41.68	41.68
Total Donations		166.68	166.68
<u>Deed Restriction Enforcement</u>			
Enforcement/Support Services		1,666.68	1,666.68
Legal Services	5,18.75	1,666.68	1,147.93
Total Deed Restriction Enforcement	5,18.75	3333.36	2,814.61
<u>Esplanade/Beautification</u>			
Maintenance/Special Projects		250.00	250.00
Mowing – 1999	1,099.98	1,666.68	566.70
Total Esplanade/Beautification	1,099.98	1,916.68	816.70
<u>Miscellaneous</u>			
Corporate/Legal Filing Fees	308.75	250.00	-58.75
Office Supplies	113.86	166.68	52.82
Other	228.00	166.68	-61.32
Total Miscellaneous	650.61	583.36	-67.25

Subcategory (Continued)	1/1/99 Actual	To Budgeted	4/30/99
Mosquito Spraying		1,333.32	1,333.32
<u>Postage & Mailing Expenses</u>			
Annual Bulk Mail Fee	100.00	33.32	-66.68
Bulk/Certified Mail & Stamps		66.68	66.68
P. O. Box Rental		25.00	25.00
Total Postage & Mailing Expenses	100.00	125.00	25.00
<u>Printing</u>			
General Printing		166.68	166.68
Security Stickers		166.68	166.68
WMCC Annual Directory	1,305.00	166.68	-1,138.32
Total Printing	1,305.00	500.04	-804.96
Security	22,454.54	20,934.48	-1,520.06
All Other Expenses	55.00		-55.00
Total Expenses	26,183.88	28,926.24	2,742.36
Income Categories			
Dues Income	86,935.00	32,880.00	54,055.00
Investment Income			
Dividends	829.25	1,500.00	-670.75
Total Investment Income	829.25	1,500.00	-670.75
Total Income Categories	87,989.25	34,546.68	53,442.57
Grand Total	61,805.37	5,620.44	56,184.93

1999 Willow Meadows Civic Club Officers and Executive Board

President	Charles Rusciano	(713) 721-3136	Beautification	Sondra Ludwick	(713) 723-1595
Vice President	Andrew Strong	(713) 723-6923	Deed Restric-	Doug Koy	(713) 723-0067
Treasurer	Rich Bernardy	(713) 728-5726	Architecture	Robbie Chase	(713) 723-6468
Secretary	Cynthia	(713) 721-6347	Editor	Ken Anctil	(713) 721-7212
Security	Chris Brouwer	(713) 723-9235	Webmaster	Juan Moreno	(713) 721-8441

SECURITY REPORT

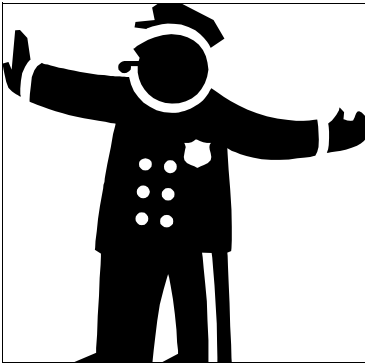
by Chris Brouwer

We are again fortunate that crime has been relatively minor in the neighborhood, but now that Spring is here, and the Summer school break is quickly approaching, there is a tendency for an increase in criminal activity, so it is important to remain alert. Don't forget that open windows invite burglars. Open garage doors invite trouble. Mowers and bicycles sitting unattended can quickly disappear. You will see from the list below that burglary from autos parked in front of houses remains one of our biggest problems; don't forget to remove or hide all valuables in your car, and park your car in the garage whenever possible.

Please don't forget to call both the Constables and the Police to ensure the fastest response.

Here are the significant incidents during this reporting period:

- 1) Feb. 1 – 4400 Lemac. Burglary of a home. No suspects seen.
- 2) Feb. 9 – 4300 Waynesboro. Burglary of a motor vehicle.
- 3) Feb. 23 – 4300 Lemac. Burglary of a motor vehicle.
- 4) March 7 – 4400 Waynesboro. Burglary of a motor vehicle. No witnesses or suspects.
- 5) March 12 – 10100 Willowgrove.



Burglary of motor vehicle. No suspects.

- 6) March 17 – 9700 Greenwillow. Auto Theft.
- 7) March 23 – 9700 Cliffwood. Broken window. No sign of entry to the residence.
- 8) April 8 – 4400 Cheena. Missing person reported, found safe.
- 9) April 21 – 4700 McDermed. Report of a man with a gun sitting in a white vehicle. When constables arrived, unable to locate the suspect. Please keep your eyes open and report if you see anything suspicious like this again.

We are fortunate to have additional Constables patrolling our neighborhood at no additional charge to Willow Meadows. In addition to patrolling the neighborhood to prevent crime, they will also focus on traffic enforcement. Please obey the traffic rules and regulations, or you may pay the price of a ticket!

By the time this goes to print, we are cautiously optimistic that we will have new signs posted throughout Willow Meadows noting that our neighborhood is patrolled by the Constables. These have been promised for some time, and we anxiously look forward to them, hoping they will discourage criminal activity.



YARD OF THE MONTH

- March – 10218 Cliffwood**
- April – 10206 Piermain**
- May – 4714 Nenana**

Remember to keep your yards in tip-top shape in order to be eligible for Yard of the Month. Winners receive a sign to display for the month plus a gift certificate to use at Teas Nursery.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

by Sondra Ludwick

During the month of April, the crepe myrtles were fertilized and trimmed along W. Bellfort. The magnolia trees were also given fertilizer and iron supplements. We should expect to see beautiful blooms in the near future.

We are planning to have a **GENERAL CLEAN-UP DAY** for the neighborhood on **Saturday, June 5, 1999**. Plan to meet at the Willow Meadows Baptist Church at **9:00 am**. Bring a set of gloves, clippers and a few garbage bags. We will pick up bottles, trash, trimmings and other items in three areas of the neighborhood: W. Bellfort from the railroad tracks to Cliffwood, W. Bellfort from Cliffwood to S. Post Oak and at the Greenwillow/610 intersection. This will be a great way to meet new people and beautify

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
the neighborhood.

Garden tips for May:

Consider mulching landscape beds in time for the Summer months. Mulch provides a wonderful barrier between the hot Summer sun and the precious moisture in landscape beds. Mulch can also inhibit weeds from growing and comes in different varieties such as cedar, cypress, or pine.

For a non-toxic pest repellent for fruits and vegetables try the following recipe. Take some chives, garlic cloves, thyme, rosemary, and liquid soap. Place ingredients in a cheese



cloth in a watering can for a day or until the juices are released. Once released, fill can with water. Water or spray fruits and veggies with mixture to naturally eliminate unwanted pests. Repeat process if necessary.

Try making "Bowls of Color" to add to your garden. Bowls can be made from hanging baskets and ceramic or wood containers. Some flowers that are great for our hot weather include: daisies, begonias, petunias, and impatiens. Check with your local nursery, such as Teas, to select the best variety for your growing conditions.

ARCHITECTURE REPORT

If you are doing a remodeling project or thinking of remodeling, don't forget that there are Deed Restrictions that must be followed, and certain steps you must take to make sure your project is in compliance. As a reminder, here is an excerpt from Article II of the Deed Restrictions:

"II.02 Responsibilities No building or improvement shall be erected, placed or altered on any Lot until two complete copies of all building plans and specifications and a plat showing the location of any such building or improvement or alteration have been submitted in writing to the ACC, and approved in writing by the ACC, as to conformity with the subdivision standards, the uniform plan of the subdivision, quality of construction, harmony of external design and color with existing buildings in WILLOW MEADOWS subdivision, and as to location of the building or improvement with respect to topography and finished ground elevation. For purposes of this section (Section II.02), submission shall be deemed to have been made when the

"If you are doing a remodeling project or thinking of remodeling, don't forget that there are deed restrictions that must be followed..."

submission has been deposited in the United States Mail, Registered or Certified, Return Receipt Requested, postage prepaid, or hand delivered to one of the persons serving as a committee member of the ACC and a receipt is issued for the submission. The ACC will recommend approval or disapproval of the design and location of any building or improvement or alteration to the Board of Directors of the Willow Meadows Civic Club, Inc."

Most notably, any of the following types of projects must be submitted to the Architectural Committee for approval:

- Any change of square footage of your house
- Any additions or new construction
- Any alterations of the roofline
- Any alterations to the façade or front elevation of the house.

If you have any doubts if you must submit plans to the ACC, don't hesitate to contact the ACC (713-723-4878). Failure to get approval for any improvement is a violation of the Deed Restrictions, and the Board has an obligation to enforce the Restrictions for the benefit of all Willow Meadows homeowners.



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1999 CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

JUNE 1

SEPTEMBER 7

DECEMBER 7

From the Webmaster

by Juan Moreno

One of the biggest problems people encounter when they first start exploring the web is finding things.

Index Sites - Good Places To Find General Information

Index sites organize information in some kind of structure. The structure is designed by a human being. The advantage here is that human intervention can lead to more selective resources. Many index sites feature the "cream of the crop" in a given subject. The downside is the same, the web changes so quickly that it is virtually impossible for a mere mortal to stay on top of everything.

Hint Remember that most of the indexes depend on people submitting information in order to stay up-to-date. In other words, just because you don't find what you're looking for at one place doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. Sometimes it takes a few searches in different places to find information that you can use. The thrill is in the hunt!

Yahoo: (www.yahoo.com)

The grand-daddy of indexes, Yahoo is a very popular site that allows you to browse information by category or to search for information by entering key words. It is well organized and easy to use, an excellent resource.

Tradewave Galaxy (galaxy.einet.net):

Lots of information, nicely organized and fun to browse.

The World Wide Web Virtual Library: (www.w3.org/hypertext/datasources/bysubject/overview.html)

One of the best things about using this resource is that it has the feel of a regular library. Somehow it seems like you should be quiet while you are visiting. Like a few of the other general sites, the descriptive lines provided with each link really help you save time.

Clearinghouse for Subject Oriented Internet Resource Guides: (www.clearinghouse.net)

A guide to guides and very well organized. The Clearinghouse has its own submission standards to help you find the best indexes available. Highly recommended.

There are of course, more great sites for looking up



general information, plus sites devoted to "cool" links, "hot" links, and a host of other indexes. Why not try out some of these links and see if you can find a few sites that appeal to your tastes and interests?

Search Engines - Great Ways to Find Specific Information

Search engines work with a little less human intervention. They send out spiders that work their way through sites and catalogue the content. Each one works a little differently and some are more powerful than others. If you are interested in learning more about this subject, dig into the FAQ index at Bot Spot. (www.bots.com/faqs/faqs1.htm)

The best way to get relevant results from a search engine is to take the time to read the help files. For more general information about search engines and how they work, visit the Consumer's Guide to Search Engines page.

Search Engine Sampler

Quick Lycos Search

Click on the Imaginary Landscape link near the top of each Lycos search page to return to the Help Web

Infoseek (www.infoseek.com)

Infoseek's newest offering is Ultraseek. Why not take it for a test spin?

Alta Vista Search Engine (www.altavista.digital.com)

This engine boasts some powerful searching capabilities, you can search for web sites, newsgroups and even for people.

(Continued from page 6)

Hotbot (www.hotbot.com)

The new search engine from Wired is also worth checking out.

Excite (www.excite.com)

This is yet another mega-resource that searches through millions of documents for you.

A Few Other Handy Starting Points

There are many guides and many more search engines available to aid you in your quests for information. There are also a variety of sites dedicated to searching out and cataloging the best of the internet. If you find yourself enjoying trying out different ways of looking for information, then check out the following:

The Weekly Bookmark (www.weeklyb.com)

The Weekly Bookmark is a site designed to inform, instruct, and support the internet community. Using the web, distribution lists, discussion lists, and web forums, we hope to reach that goal."

The Internet Sleuth (www.isleuth.com)

Search through 1,500 databases of information. Nicely done!

Starting Point (www.stpt.com)

Like the Internet Sleuth, Starting Point allows you to power search or browse through categories to find hot sites in a wide assortment of categories.

Happy Surfing !!

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Speed hump update

As of 2/26/99, the City of Houston has published information about the program and the status of outstanding speed hump requests. You can pull the list from a website hosted by the City—www.ci.houston.tx.us/departme/works/humps.htm.

The information indicates that the petitioned portion of Greenwillow from the Loop, north to South Braeswood, has been declared "disqualified" as a primary service route by the Fire Department. None others were published for sections of our subdivision.

As is the policy of the WMCC, we neither endorse nor discourage any resident's right to petition on this matter. At the beginning of this program, several years ago, the general straw vote during a general meeting saw an equal division of residences which the Board felt it could not adequately or fairly represent.



TOP TEN REASONS TO NOT PUT YOUR HEAVY TRASH OUT EARLY

We couldn't help but notice that a lot of our neighbors trimmed trees and put out their heavy trash very early in April. While it is encouraging to see everyone taking time to do their spring cleaning and pruning, it was really quite an eye sore to look at those piles for weeks. Heavy trash pick-up is the 4th Wednesday of every month (and sometimes they come late, such as this April). Here are the top ten reasons not to put your heavy trash out early:

1. Your neighbors really did not enjoy looking at your piles of rubbish for so long.
2. You probably got tired of seeing the trash in your yard for so long.
3. Our neighborhood looks like a dump when your trash

is piled out for weeks.

4. Piles of household items attract vagrants who pick through your things, which may encourage them to come back to your house for more.
5. Your grass probably died underneath the piles and will be a lingering eyesore of brown grass and weeds through the coming months.
6. If you paid a tree trimmer or contractor to do your work, it may have only cost a few dollars more to have your trash hauled.
7. It is a violation of our Deed Restrictions.
8. IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON ORDINANCE.
9. YOU COULD BE SUBJECT TO A FINE.
10. It looks really, really tacky!

REMODELING????

If you are doing a remodeling project or thinking of remodeling, don't forget that there are Deed Restrictions that must be followed, and certain steps you must take to make sure your project is in compliance. As a reminder, here is an excerpt from Article II of the Deed Restrictions:

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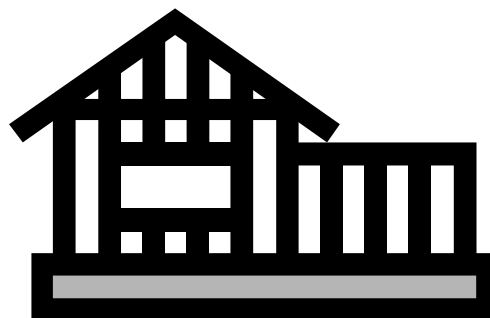
Most notably, any of the following types of projects must be submitted to the Architectural Committee for approval:

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- Any alterations of the roofline
- Any alterations to the façade or front elevation of the house.

If you have any doubts if you must submit plans to the ACC, don't hesitate to contact the ACC (713-723-4878). Failure to get approval for any improvement is a violation of the Deed Restrictions, and the Board has an obligation to enforce the Restrictions for the benefit of all Willow Meadows homeowners.

Please remember that it was all of us as home owners that voted for these new, unified deed restrictions in order to maintain the appearance and values of our neighborhood. While it will never be the Board's intention to be arbitrary or punitive, the board is empowered to take legal action, including halting construction/remodeling in progress if such work violates our Deed Restrictions. It is our hope, instead, that this process is a helpful one in guiding residents, only where necessary, on how to best improve the most expensive investment most of us will ever make.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The City of Houston Public Works Department issued a notice to the Civic Club about a program called Neighborhood Environmental Education Training (N.E.E.T.), which concerns the manner in which the city takes complaints about environmental issues.

The City has offered to attend one of our meetings and make a 30-minute slide presentation. As we have all experienced in the past, a 30-minute presentation can easily translate into 45 minutes of time carved out of our meeting.

Here are the essentials: (1) Call (713) 525-2728 if you see any suspicious dumping or storage problems. This falls under the category of "Rat-on-a-Rat" (R.O.A.R.). There is a \$200 cash reward if your testimony leads to the successful conclusion of a case. (2) This program is intended to be a beautification program as well as a "watch-dog" program to prevent pollution of land and water.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Precinct 7 Constables	(713) 643-6602
Emergency	911
Poison Control	(800) 764-7661
Mayor's Office	(713) 247-1888
Martha Wong, Dist. C	(713) 247-2004
Odor Hotline	(713) 837-0600
Water/Sewer Repairs	(713) 837-0600
Neighborhood Protection	(713) 525-2525
Harris County Flood Control	(713) 684-4197

NEW STORES, NEW STORES!

There always seems to be new activity and new growth around our neighborhood. Have you noticed the new GNC over in the Randall's shopping center? It's near the Radio Shack.



Also in the same shopping area, construction is taking place for a new Walmart. It has received mixed reviews from residents on whether or not we actually want one this close with the traffic it might bring to the neighborhood. However, it looks like it's going to be here to stay.

How about the intersection of Stella Link and Beechnut? At the same time that the street of Stella Link has been worked on we've seen a lot of new and remodeled convenience and retail shops, including a new NAPA auto parts store

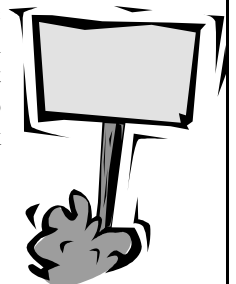
We're also hoping to see some new and exciting retail shops in the Stella Link Shopping Center, right near the South Loop.

FREE ENTERPRISE OR AN EYE-SORE?

As reported in the May 18th edition of the Southwest News, "Citizens' Protest Wins Another Round in Billboard Battle". It appears that the billboard at the corner of Loop 610 and Beechnut now has a history of disappearing messages, thanks to calls from local residents.

The latest ad to play the disappearing act on the billboard put up by Outdoor Advertising was a Tide ad from Proctor and Gamble. It seems this ad, put up two weeks ago, lasted only a week. As soon as Proctor and Gamble had received phone calls from angry residents explaining where their ad had been placed, they had it pulled and put up somewhere else. Other advertisers that have also brought their ads down in short order have been an internet company, a radio station, and the Texas Department of Transportation.

Apparently many advertisers only specify the city where they want their ads, and leave up the specific location to the local advertising agency in the city. It's nice to know, however, that some advertisers are willing to listen to local area residents about what they think of the placement.





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