

September 2000 Meeting

The next meeting of the Willow Meadows Civic Club is Tuesday, **September 5th**, 7:30 at the Willow Meadows Baptist Church. Please come and take part in what is going on in your neighborhood.

Willow Meadows News

www.WillowMeadows.org

**August
2000**

**Inside this
issue:**

<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	2
<i>Letters to the Editor</i>	3
<i>Architecture</i>	4
<i>Security Report</i>	5
<i>In Memory of Al Abrahms</i>	6
<i>Notice of Motions to be Voted</i>	6
<i>Maintenance Update/YOTM</i>	7
<i>Deed Restrictions</i>	8
<i>News Around the Neighborhood</i>	9
<i>Notes from the Editor</i>	9
<i>WMCC Board Officers and Directors</i>	9
<i>Esplanade/ Monument Project</i>	10
<i>Willow Park Project</i>	11
<i>From the Webmaster</i>	13

From The President

As this newsletter finds you, I hope that you are having a great Summer and avoiding the oppressive heat. Looking on the good side, at least the heat keeps the mosquitoes down (of course, that is helped by the mosquito spraying paid for by your dues). This has been one of the hottest summers in a long time. I feel like I like I am constantly moving my garden hose around just to keep my trees and bushes nourished.

In case you have not seen the July 25th edition of the Southwest News, let me provide you with some background. The newspaper ran a front-page article accusing the Civic Club Board and, more specifically, me of being insensitive to seniors as it relates to the mandatory annual assessments. In a nutshell, a Willow Meadows resident was upset by the fact that a lien was placed on her parent's home, especially since her father was a senior and had allegedly worked many hours for the Civic Club. The resident further quoted me as saying many things that were very insensitive.

In response to the insensitive statements that I supposedly made, I assure you that they are untrue and were never made. I have spent countless hours providing community service in this neighborhood and in many inner-city neighborhoods. My record of selfless acts speaks for itself and I only hope that you will see that for yourselves. I have never hesitated for one minute to help people who are in need and will continue to do so in the future.

As to the issue relating to the mandatory annual assessments, the Willow Meadows deed restrictions assess annual dues of \$150 per home. The dues are spent in accordance with a budget approved by the members in the March General Meeting of every year. If, for ANY REASON, a member does not want to or simply cannot afford to pay the \$150, then that person may defer that amount, interest free, up until such time when the house is sold or is transferred by bequeath to someone who is not a surviving spouse. By deferring the \$150, a non-foreclosable lien is automatically placed on the property to ensure that payment is made when the home is sold or transferred. At the sale or transfer, the lien is easily removed after payment of the accrued amount is made by the new owner or title company.

This "deferral" process was the result of many discussions at the General Meetings during the amendment of the deed restrictions. It and other amendments were subsequently approved by more than 60% of the homeowners. Therefore, each Willow Meadows homeowner has the following options with respect to the annual assessment: (1) pay the \$150 annual assessment, (2) defer the assessment up until the house is sold or transferred, or (3) pay a portion of the assessment and defer the rest. A deferred amount can be paid off at any time.

So, the question now before ALL Willow Meadows homeowners is whether the deferral process is indeed fair and, if not, what should be done to fix it. At the September 5th meeting, the Board will put forth a motion asking you if other options should be investigated. Please be present to vote on this important issue. We look forward to seeing you there.

Andrew Strong, WMCC President

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Paul Pennington

Below is the current accounting for the WMCC. It includes a list of the actual expenses through July 30, 2000, and the projected expenses to that date based on the budget approved in early January 2000. Currently, there are no budgetary line items that are significantly in deficit. Income revenue from dues has improved when compared to April, 200, to a total of 92% and 84% of paid homes in 1999 and year 2000 respectively.

EXPENSES	Pro Rata Budget	Actual	Surplus or (Deficit)
Bank Charges	\$ 58.33	\$ 282	\$ (224)
Deed Restriction Enforcement			
Enforcement/Support Services	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,787	\$ 713
Legal Services	\$ 4,375	\$ 4,056	\$ 319
Beautification			
Special Park Projects/Esplanade	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ 3,500
Mowing	\$ 2,567	\$ 2,200	\$ 367
Mosquito Spraying	\$ 2,333	\$ 2,000	\$ 333
Security	\$ 40,313	\$ 40,370	\$ (57)
Postage & Mailing			
Annual Bulk Mail Fee	\$ 58	\$ -	\$ 58
First Class Mail (3 * 821 * \$0.5)	\$ 718	\$ 1,257	\$ (539)
P.O. Box Rental	\$ 44	\$ 75	\$ (31)
Printing			
General Printing	\$ 583	\$ 600	\$ (17)
Security Stickers (annualized)	\$ 292	\$ 125	\$ 167
WMCC Annual Directory	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ 1,400
Charitable Donations			
Red Elementary	\$ 146	\$ -	\$ 146
United Orthodox Synagogue	\$ 73	\$ -	\$ 73
Willow Meadows Baptist	\$ 102	\$ -	\$ 102
Miscellaneous Expenses			
Corporate/Legal Filing Fees	\$ 292	\$ 84	\$ 208
Insurance for Board	\$ 583	\$ -	\$ 583
Office Supplies	\$ 175	\$ 199	\$ 24
Neighborhood Night/weekend out (Three)	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Welcome Packages (50 * \$30)	\$ 875	\$ 1,014	\$ (140)
Other	\$ 292	\$ -	\$ 292
<u>Total Expenses:</u>	\$ 63,154	\$ 55,050	\$ 8,104
INCOME			
Annual Assessment (Full Year)	\$110,835	\$106,057	\$ (4,778)
Transfer Fees/Resale Certificates (Pro Rata)	\$ 1,458	\$ 1,609	\$ 151
Investment Dividends (Pro Rata)	\$ 1,667	\$ 1,920	\$ 1,183
Advertising Income	\$ 292	\$ 100	\$ (52)
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$115,501	\$112,006	\$ (3,496)
	-		
GRAND TOTAL (Surplus or Deficit):	\$ 52,347	\$ 56,956	\$ 4,608

C. Schwab Balance as of 7/31/00, incl. 6 month Certificate of Deposit: \$ 164,311

(Continued on Page 11)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



In regard to the July 25th article in the Southwest News entitled "HOAs and Senior Citizens," I believe article failed to present the other side to Ms. Uzick's story. My wife and I have been residents of Willow Meadows Subdivision for almost 30 years, and we are now very content with the new deed restrictions of which Ms. Uzick complains and also with our current Civic Club president, Andrew Strong.

Having known Mr. Strong for many years, we have come to value him as Both a good neighbor and a good friend of all the residents of Willow Meadows Subdivision. In his service as an officer of our Civic Club, he has shown himself to be genuinely interested in the welfare of all our residents. We have also seen him actively helping needy neighbors move furniture, trim trees, and mend fences. In matters of Civic Club business, he has always been generous with his time and counsel.

He was not the first to recognize that those among us who failed and refused to pay their pro rata portion of our Civic Club expenses in effect placed an undue burden on those who did act responsibly. For many years, we residents have seen the need for some means of collecting unremitted home owners' association dues. It was the topic of many civic club discussions.

That need was met during Mr. Strong's watch on the Board, when the overwhelming majority of our residents voted for the current deed restrictions. The provision of which Ms. Uzick complains--permitting the filing of liens to secure payment of association dues--was specifically presented and discussed prior to the voting.

I believe, through our discussions at the open meeting--which, by the way, did bring about changes in the final set of restrictions--and through our final vote, we the residents of Willow Meadows adequately addressed and provided for the concerns of the elderly, the infirm, and the economically impaired.

By our voting, the majority of us has expressed our collective consent to certain rules of conduct with regard to one another here in Willow Meadows, and by this democratic process we must all be bound. We would all live in an unstable and unpredictable situation if our deed restrictions could be changed at any time on a whim or a desire for special treatment.

As to the Southwest New's reporting of Mr. Strong's alleged statements, it is difficult for me to reconcile Ms. Uzick's allegations with what I have seen and heard from Mr. Strong over the years and with his reputation in our community for fairness and generosity. Beyond the boundaries of our own subdivision, he was recently honored by the State Bar of Texas for his service in single-handedly undertaking an educational project for the benefit of children in our public schools.

I believe his efforts on behalf of all of the residents here are reaping benefits daily, as I see house after house being remodeled and upgraded. My wife and I are glad to have him on our side--the side of all residents in our subdivision. His service is definitely a benefit to all of us.

Yours truly, J. W. Fletcher (4510 Nenana Drive), Willow Meadows resident since 1970.

See Page 9 for details on submitting a Letter to the Editor. Also, post your thoughts on our Discussion Forum at the Willow Meadows web site.

Architectural Control Committee

by Robbie Chase

The list below is our second posting of this list. It has been posted on our Web Site and we try to update it as soon as a recommendation is given.

In the event that any of you have a bad experience with any of these individuals or companies let me know and I will drop them from the list. Understand that neither the Civic Club, nor the person making these recommendations, will be held liable for making these recommendations. This listing is presented as a service to the neighborhood. In the event you want to speak to the individual making the recommendation I am keeping a master list with the name and phone number of the individual making the referral. At this point in time I do not plan to publish their names or phone numbers.



	Contractor	Phone #	Contact
Appliance Repairs	Walker Appliance	713-774-2688	Mr. Walker
	Bauman's	281-346-0641	
Carpentry	Sergio Escobar	713-434-2281	
Concrete	Concrete Works	713-688-4333	Daniel Reyna
Doors	Jett Doors	281-469-9644	
Fences	Griffin Fence	713-937-6611	
Gas Stoves	Macy's Texas Stove	713-521-0934	
General Renovation	Joe Koch	713-994-8144	Joe Koch
Glass	Buffalo Glass	713-774-7495	
	Swor's Glass	713-738-2464	
Heating A/C	Sammon's	713-984-0555	
	Apline Air, Inc.	713-433-5641	Richard Dunn
Painting	Edward Perez	713-434-2281	
Plumbing	S&S Plumbing	281-575-5786	Danny Smolensky
	Layne Plumbing	281-499-3122	
	Sword Plumbing	713-526-9588	
Plumbing Supply	Universal Plumbing	713-225-2800	Melvin Cweren
Pools	Richards Spas and Pools	713-772-8646	
Sprinklers	Fresh Start Landscapes	281-469-9614	
Tile	Tran Van	281-289-9466	

If any of you would like to make any future referrals I urge you to e-mail them to me via our website at architecture@willowmeadows.org. Please include your name and phone number when leaving information about any company.

Also, remember that if any of you are planning any renovations that alter the exterior appearance of your house you are required to submit the architectural review form that is found on our website and two sets of plans for neighborhood approval.

SECURITY REPORT

by Bill Warden

Even with the intense political effort on the part of Precinct 7 deputies, long time incumbent, Constable A.B. Chambers, was defeated in the March Democratic primary. Not surprisingly, during the crucial political weeks before the primary, our deputies were rarely seen. Several complaints were lodged with the WMCC not only regarding the low visibility, but because Chambers political supporters were using our esplanades to place political signs, which is illegal. Our Willowbend neighbors, who also depend on these deputies as part of their contract security program, were experiencing similar frustrations and concerns.

As most Willow Meadows residents may be aware, either by word of mouth or by reports printed in the Houston Chronicle and other publications, the deputy assigned to patrol Willow Meadows over the past several years, Sgt. Certa, has been indicted by a Brazoria County Grand Jury on two counts of sexual abuse of a child. Mr. Certa was arrested on June 18th, 2000, and relieved of duty shortly thereafter. We have always known Sgt. Certa to provide quality service to our community and there were never any complaints lodged about his service. Around the same time Sgt. Certa was relieved of duty, Deputy Mallett, who was assigned to patrol both Willow Meadows and Willowbend, was involved in a near fatal truck/motorcycle accident on Highway 288. Deputy Mallett, while leading an escort on motorcycle, was struck by a truck. His injuries were such that it required him being taken by Life Flight to a local hospital. As of this report, he remains in critical condition, with limited visitations.

Our contract patrol program is shared between Willow Meadows and Willowbend. Although, the contracts are separate, the above mentioned deputies jointly patrol both subdivisions in order to acquire the greatest coverage. Needless to say, these two major events have severely affected our security program. Both subdivisions have experienced a great reduction in coverage during these past several weeks. Deputy Pearson, who is currently assigned to four other neighboring communities including Linkwood and Westwood, has been required to stretch his usual patrolling shift to include our two neighborhoods as well. We have been very fortunate that no major events have taken place.

To date, I have yet to receive the crime status reports for Willow Meadows for the 2nd. quarter of this year. These issues are of serious concern. It leads us to question the continued use of the Constable's office for security coverage. A large majority of the dues paid by Willow Meadows residents (approximately \$70,000) goes towards security. Accordingly, we expect a higher degree of service in protecting our homes and health.

Beginning in April of this year, the Board requested the Security Committee to evaluate potential options to the present situation. At about the same time we began to consider other options, we heard from the newly elected Willowbend Civic Club President Wendy Laubach and their Security Chair Sid Roberts. Willowbend is likewise unhappy with the service provided by the Constable and is exploring its options.

At the September 5th General Meeting, we will present the following options for consideration by the membership: (1) continue the patrol with Precinct 7 Constables, (2) contract with off-duty, uniformed personnel from the Houston Police Department to drive their personal vehicles with a WMCC placard on the side (this is what Pct. 287, the neighborhood south of Willowbend, has been doing for the past several years), or (3) contract with the same HPD personnel, but have them drive a marked vehicle owned and maintained by the Civic Club. Willowbend is considering the same options but has an additional one in

(Continued on page 12)

IN MEMORY OF AL ABRAMS*By Lillian J. Warden*

Members of the Willow Meadows Board and residents would like to pay tribute to Albert "Al" Abrams, a long time resident of our neighborhood, who passed away on July 1, 2000. He is preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Frieda, and is survived by his son Joshua Abrams, his wife, Sherrie Ann Hopkins, and his daughter, Carlynne, and her husband, Alex McDonnell.

Not only did he give unselfishly to the betterment of our neighborhood; he also served the Houston community as a whole in a number of key positions of various organizations. The following is his obituary from the Houston Chronicle as it appeared on July 2, 2000. It reflects Al's lifelong dedication to his family, his community, and to the betterment of his fellow man:

ALBERT ABRAMS died on July 1, 2000. Born September 2, 1921, in St. Joseph, Louisiana. Served his country during WWII in the US Air Force and Army. Graduated from Baton Rouge High School, received a BS in Chemistry from City College of New York and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from New York University. Employed by Shell University Development Corporation for 34 years as a Research Chemist and was recognized as an expert on improvement of oil and gas well productivity. Al was an inspiration in his efforts to better other's lives through the giving of his time and of his self. Volunteer efforts included serving as Treasurer of the Harris County Democrats during the 1960's, serving as organizer and coordinator of Upward Bound Career Seminars at TSU, and helping to organize Houston Association for Better Schools (HABS), an organization dedicated to improving education programs and achieving desegregation in HISD. He was one of the first PTA Presidents of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA). Volunteered at ARAMCO Literacy Center (READ), teaching English and other courses. Assisted in the preparation and distribution of Christmas food baskets to AIDS patients. Served on two Harris County Grand Juries. Also served on the Area Planning Advisory Council (APAC) as an appointee of Mayor Bob Lanier. Was politically active at the precinct and county levels, and in the Willow Meadows Civic Club; also assisted in the operation of Southwest Campaign Headquarters of two presidential campaigns. Was also a member of the Texas Bill of Rights Foundation. Al was a member of the Jewish Community Center and Beth Yeshurun Synagogue.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. Abrams on various projects and was fortunate to have him and his wife Frieda as neighbors. He was a proud founding resident of Willow Meadows, residing at 4630 O'Meara, and served as Past President of our Civic Association. His dedication and commitment to others served as an inspiration to me and to those whose lives he touched. He taught me to be ever cognizant of the importance of volunteerism. I am sure he will be missed by all of those who knew him. On behalf of the Willow Meadows community, I would like to express my deepest condolences to his family.

NOTICE: MOTIONS TO BE VOTED ON AT THE SEPTEMBER 5TH MEETING

The Civic Club Board will be putting forth 3 motions for a vote at the September 5th General Meeting.

The **FIRST** motion pertains to whether the Board should conduct a neighborhood survey to determine if the "deferment" of annual assessments is unfair and that other options should be considered.

The **SECOND** motion pertains to a request by the Board for approval to undertake a capital improvement project on the esplanades (*See* page 10 for more details).

The **THIRD** motion pertains to whether the Board should develop detailed cost projections for changing the security patrol from the Pct. 7 Constable's office to off-duty HPD officers (*See* Page 5).

PLEASE BE PRESENT TO VOTE!!!

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

by Robert Doffing

Summer Heat and Your Lawn!

The August heat is upon us. As I am sure you have noticed our neighborhood lawns are showing the stress of the summer heat. One of the best ways to combat the stresses of heat is a timed sprinkler system. Of course not everyone has that option and that leaves us with hand watering. In either case watering in the early morning or late evening helps to prevent loss of water through evaporation by allowing the grass and soil to absorb the water before the sun takes it back. Heavy watering at these times is not advisable because a hard dry soil will allow for a greater amount of runoff. If you have been watering on a regular basis and the soil is damp the heavy watering is fine. To get your hard soil moist a soaker hose works very well.



Raise your mower. That is mow high, St Augustine grass should be kept at about 3 inches long. The longer grass blades will help to conserve moisture. Also you will want to avoid using pesticides and fertilizers during the summer heat as they absorb the moisture and further stress the lawn.

Several questions often arise concerning summer lawns, the first is, how often should I mow? You should mow your lawn about every 7 to 10 days. Remove only about one third of the grass blade. Use a mulching mower as this will provide fertilizer and help to retain moisture in the soil.

When should I mow? The Early evening is the best time to mow. This gives the grass time to recover before the days heat and wind. Be sure to use a sharp blade, and never mow wet grass. It is helpful to mow your lawn in a different direction each time you mow. This will prevent the grass from developing ridges and ruts or becoming compacted. When using a non-mulching mower be sure that the clippings are discharged into the uncut grass. That way they will be chopped up better. If you use a mulching mower it won't matter much which way the clippings are thrown. You should water your lawn at a rate of 1" per week about every 3 or 4

Yard of the Month In Willow Meadows



June	4326 McDermed
July	4310 Waynesboro
August	4818 Waynesboro

Please feel free to email or call our Beautification chairman if you have a neighbor you want to recognize for their efforts.

days during the growing season. A little more often if the temperature is very high. Watering deeply encourages deeper root growth. Mid-day watering promotes shallow root growth and make the lawn more prone to dry conditions. Automatic lawn sprinklers help you water properly and easily without wasting water.

Please contact me at (713) 729-7464 with any questions or send suggestions or proposed articles with gardening tips for the next newsletter to beautification@willowmeadows.org.

REMAINING 2000 CIVIC CLUB MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 5
DECEMBER 5

DEED RESTRICTION UPDATES

by Doug Koy

The Willow Meadows Deed Restriction Enforcement Committee met on July 12, 2000. The Committee Chair, Doug Koy, reported that the violations now being reported all have to do with exterior upkeep such as lawns overgrown and peeling paint. The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

1. Present at the meeting were Andrew Strong, Lilly Warden, Beverly Wuntch, and Doug Koy. Peggy Stamy, Deed Restriction Assistant was out of town.
2. In the absence of Peggy, the committee reviewed the list of violations prepared by Peggy. A number of notations were made for Doug to review with Peggy.
3. Andrew asked that Peggy contact the Harris County regarding the high weeds along Willow Hole Bayou and request that both banks be mowed.
4. Andrew asked that Peggy contact Randall's and Wal-Mart regarding shopping carts abandoned at bus stops and other locations along West Bellfort. Complaints have been received regarding the shopping cart "rodeo" that seems to occur around the bus stops.
5. The committee approved the proposed ID badge for Peggy.

Another item having to do with the general appearance of our neighborhood has to do with tree and large shrub trimmings. Please try to have this done in the week prior to the next pick up which is now the first Tuesday. We continue to see large piles of trimmings at the curb for 2 and 3 weeks before pick up. Thank you for your help.

The committee has received positive feedback on the new procedure policy for notifying residents about deed restriction violations. Now, when a complaint is received, Peggy Stamy will personally attempt to establish contact with the resident prior to sending out the first violation letter. This is done by way of a telephone call or a visit to the residence. Now with her ID badge, Peggy is able to readily identify herself to residents. If you wish



to report a violation, you may do so through our Web Site at www.willowmeadows.org or by calling our Deed Restrictions Committee Delegate Peggy Stamy at (713) 723-0350. Thank you for your cooperation. We are always looking for volunteers who want to join the deed restriction committee. Please call Doug Koy to inquire.

Legal News:

The Deed Restriction Committee has filed the notice of liens on all homes that failed to pay their 1999 annual assessment. Out of 821 homes in Willow Meadows, 57 notices were filed on residents who failed to pay or submit a "deferment" and 3 notices were filed for "deferment" cases.

Architectural Approvals:

Remember when you are planning renovations to the exterior of your home, you need to secure the approval of the Architectural Committee, Robbie Chase at (713) 723-4878. If your remodeling/construction project is time sensitive, you may want to hand deliver your request to Robbie at his home, 10002 Willowgrove.

Residents whose fence backs up to West Bellfort, and are planning to replace their existing fence, must now erect an 8 foot fence, and constructed of an approved material (solid wood), according to our Deed Restrictions (*See Article III, i*). The new 8' fence's good side will need to face W. Bellfort.

Some homes have recently been sold in the \$260,000 to \$299,000 range. We think there are four reasons for these high prices: location, location, location and an active civic club provides for security patrols, the enforcement of deed restrictions, and many other things.

NEWS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

As indicated in a previous newsletter, the shopping center at Stella Link and Holcombe is being transformed. Look for a new Whole Foods store later this summer. Buffet Express got forced out, but that was our gain, as they moved into the old Walgreens location next to Sellers Brothers on Stella Link at South Braeswood.

By now you have probably noticed that two popular tenants in the Willow Park shopping center have pulled the plug—Einstein’s Bagel shop and TCBY Treats. As to Einstein, the bagel business requires high volume and business at the one in Willow Park was somewhat flat compared to other Einstein bagel shops. You have notice a trend across Houston where bagel shops are closing. As to TCBY, it seems that business could not have been better. Sources say that the Meyer Corporation substantially increased the rent and TCBY said thanks, but no thanks. We will miss both these institutions and hope that they are quickly replaced.

Brays Bayou Flood Reduction Plan

In early June, the Harris County Commissioners approved the proposed flood reduction plan prepared by the Harris County Flood Control District (“HCFCD”). The project will involve widening of Brays Bayou and reconstruction of several street crossings. The project will be done in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is estimated to cost approximately \$400 million. It will reported take 10 years to complete, but most of the work in our area will be done by 2004. Get ready for the traffic jams on Braeswood. Rep. Scott Hochberg has an excellent summary of the project at <http://scotthochberg.com/brays.html>

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

First, please pay attention that the civic club meeting is on the FIRST Tuesday following Labor Day. The Civic Club typically meets on the FIRST Tuesday of the month in March, June, September, and December. Last General Meeting in June we met on the second Tuesday due to a conflict of schedules at the church.

We are always looking for help on the Board and especially in preparing this newsletter. We invite articles that are tastefully done and informative to the neighbors.

As already provided in this newsletter, we are starting a Letters to the Editor section (*See* Page 3). Please send us your thoughts on the neighborhood, local issues, etc. So long as the letter is tasteful and constructive, we will print it. We will also print gripes as well. Please send your letter to the Willow Meadows address below or you can e-mail it to Editor@willowmeadows.org. If you e-mail it, please provided it in MS Word, if at all possible.

We also need help in the advertising department. A good potential source of revenue that we have yet to fully tap is advertising in this newsletter and on the Web Page. We need help is soliciting advertisement on these media. Please call Andrew Strong at 713/662-9083 (work) if you are willing to help us sell advertising in the newsletter or if you want to advertise in it yourself. If the latter, see the pricing structure on Page 12.

Willow Meadows Civic Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 35551
Houston, Texas 77235
[Http://www.willowmeadows.org](http://www.willowmeadows.org)

2000 Willow Meadows Civic Club Officers and Executive Board

President	Andrew Strong	(713) 723-6923	Beautification	Robert Doffing	(713) 729-7464
Vice President	Lillian J. Warden	(713) 728-1161	Deed Restrictions	Doug Koy	(713) 723-0067
Treasurer	Paul Pennington	(713) 723-6282	Architecture	Robbie Chase	(713) 723-6468
Secretary	Sondra Ludwick	(713) 723-1595	Newsletter Editor	Vacant	
Security	Bill Warden	(713) 728-1161	Webmaster	Juan Moreno	(713) 721-8441

Who Can I Call?

Precinct 7 Constables (713) 643-6602

Emergency 911

Poison Control (800) 764-7661

Mayor's Office (713) 247-1888

Mark Goldberg, 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

As a courtesy to our residents, we are providing you the most common "gripe" numbers so that you can make your voice heard on the issues of concern to you.



County Commissioner

Prec. 1, Outside the Loop
(El Franco Lee) (713) 755-7715

Prec. 3, Inside the Loop
(Steve Radack) (713) 755-6305

City Secretary (713) 247-1840

Houston Solid Waste Mgmt
dead animals (713) 669-7900

heavy trash (713) 551-7300

Texas State Representative
(Scott Hochberg, Dist. 132) (713) 660-7783

Texas State Senator
(Rodney Ellis, Dist. 13) (713) 236-0306

Willow Meadows Monument Project by Sondra Ludwick

The following board members have been busy gathering information and request for quotations (RFQs) for the Esplanade Improvement Project: Doug Koy, Robbie Chase and Sondra Ludwick. The Esplanade Improvement Project is a large capital improvement project consisting of the following items:

1. Remove the leaning brick walls with metal signs at the south entrance of our neighborhood on Greenwillow at McDermed. These signs have been around as long as our neighborhood and have seen their better days. The Board felt that it is not necessary to spend money in rebuilding these signs since this entrance is not a major access point for visitors.
2. Remove the wood sign at S. Braeswood and Greenwillow and replace it with a beautiful brick monument bearing our neighborhood's name. This monument will be similar to the monuments located on W. Bellfort. The Board felt that this is a major entrance into our neighborhood and should display a quality monument.
3. Landscape the 2 monuments on W. Bellfort and the new monument on S. Braeswood. Adding landscaping to these signs will improve their appearance tremendously and dramatically enhance the appearance of the 3 major entrances to our neighborhood.
4. Adding a sprinkler system to the esplanades on W. Bellfort to water the landscaping.

The committee plans to meet with a landscape architect in order to synthesize the multiple plans into a single, workable plan. This meeting should take place prior to the September General Meeting, allowing for an update to the residents including a discussion of the funds required to complete this project. Our estimates to date are in the range of \$30,000 - \$50,000. Below is a breakdown of costs:

Item	Estimated cost
New brick sign (north)	\$ 10,000 - 15,000
Reface 2 signs (Bellfort)	\$ 5,000 - 10,000
Landscaping	\$ 5,000
Sprinkler system	\$ 10,000 - 20,000

We are presently exploring options to receive supplemental funds from the City of Houston, private donations and federal grants. We need your help and thoughts. If you are interested and can help, please contact me at (713) 723-1595.

WILLOW PARK PROJECT

By Cynthia Adamson

At the March 2000 WMCC General Meeting, the membership voted to create an *ad-hoc* committee to look into possible improvements of Willow Park. As you may know, Willow Park, located next to Red Elementary on Cliffwood, is the only park in our neighborhood. Over the past several years, the condition of the park has deteriorated and safety issues have been raised. The primary issues to be address by the Committee include safety and capital improvements.

In the April, the Committee recently met with City Councilmember Mark Goldberg and Beto Bautista, Deputy Director of the Parks Department to discuss specific safety concerns and capital improvements to the park. Since that meeting, the City has addressed all of the safety concerns. The Committee has also met to discuss the development of conceptual plans for the park and fund-raising needs for the capital improvements.

More recently, the Committee just recently submitted an application to the Houston Parks Board for formation of a Neighborhood Partnership Program. The primary goal behind this program is to improve city parks through a cooperative effort between citizens groups, The Houston Parks Board, Inc. and the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The program was created in 1985 in an effort to foster community involvement in the design, construction, funding and maintenance of neighborhood parks improvements. Past and present projects have been successful in building a sense of pride and ownership among park users. If our application is approved by the Houston Parks Board and the Parks and Recreation Department, the park project would be eligible to receive up to \$25,000 matching funds from the City of Houston.

The project will most likely take between 2 to 3 years before any major improvements are done to Willow Park. We will be trying to raise approximately \$300,000 over the next 3 years from grants, fundraisers, individual, and business donations. One

of our first tasks will be to develop a questionnaire that will be distributed to households (most likely via newsletter) in the neighborhood. This will give residents a chance to voice his/her opinion on what improvements they would like to see implemented in Willow Park.

Braeswood Place Homeowners Association just recently completed renovations of Karl Young Park, located on Stella Link just north of N. Braeswood. This is just one of the many neighborhoods that has achieved their fundraising goal in order to create a safer and modernized park with the assistance of the Neighborhood Partnership Program. Members from the Willow Meadows Park Committee met with some of the key persons responsible for successfully organizing the park project. Topics included the formation of the partnership, fundraising, playground equipment, drainage problems and their outreach program in order to get feedback from the community. If you haven't had a chance to visit Karl Young, I urge you to do so to see what a community is capable of doing if everyone pitches in on a group effort.

If you cannot volunteer, but have some good ideas, please feel free to share them with us. If you are interested, please contact Cynthia Adamson at (713) 721-6347.

Treasurer's Report (cont.)

Income Tax

We still have not received a ruling on the late income tax filing of 1998, as our case has been referred, but not re-opened. I will keep the association updated on any developments as we receive them.

Improvements in assessment interest income

WMCC will invest an additional \$60,000 into a one-year certificate of deposit in late summer. This money will be invested in concurrence with the \$100,000 Certificate of Deposit that will be coming due in October. Currently, the higher interest rates offered by these securities allows an additional \$2,000-3,000 additional income over the rates received in 1999.

(Continued from page 5)

that it can join up with Pct. 287's patrol since that patrol already overlaps with the portion of Willowbend south of Willowbend Blvd.

We propose to present the options available to WMCC at the September 5th General Meeting for conceptual discussion only. If the membership agrees that other options should be explored more fully, we will provide a more detailed explanation of the options with the request for a vote at the December 5th General Meeting. By that time, we will know what the increase in cost will be for the Constable's patrol (the County typically raises it by 10 per cent every year). In addition, we have heard that the County subsidy of the patrol may be removed for 2001 (approximately 20 to 30 percent), therefore, resulting in even greater increases in the cost of the Constable's patrol..

was doing the same. and Willow Meadows Civic Associations are exploring a very appealing security option available through the assistance of personnel from the Houston Police Department's Beechnut substation and commitments made by incoming Precinct 7 Constable, Perry Wooten. This would offer substantially increased patrol and police visibility in our neighborhood. The security of our residents and subdivision remains our foremost concern. *(Continued on next column)*

The following crime statistics were obtained from the Houston Police Department for our area (15E30 beat):

<u>Month/ Yr</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>N u m b e r</u>
April/ 2000	Forcible Rape	1
April/ 2000	Robbery	7
April/ 2000	Aggravated Assault	5
April /2000	Burglary	15
April /2000	Burglary of Automobile	14
April /2000	Auto theft	9
April /2000	Narcotic Crimes	9
May /2000	Forcible Rape	0
May /2000	Robbery	10
May /2000	Aggravated Assault	11
May /2000	Burglary	29
May /2000	Burglary of Automobile	17
May /2000	Auto Theft	9
May /2000	Narcotic Crimes	4
June /2000	Murder	1
June /2000	Forcible Rape	1
June /2000	Robbery	6
June /2000	Aggravated Assault	7
June /2000	Burglary	17
June /2000	Burglary of Automobile	13
June /2000	Auto Theft	14
June /2000	Narcotic Crimes	5
June /2000	DWI	2

NANNY NEEDED!!!

Willow Meadows resident is seeking a live-out nanny for our infant son. Ideal candidate must be responsible and nurturing, a non-smoker, and able to speak English. Hours would be 8am - 6pm Monday through Friday. References will be requested.

Please call 713.721.7662.

Advertising

Willow Meadows newsletter accepts advertising and classifieds to help defray the costs of printing and other civic club expenses. If you have a local business or provide a service useful to our neighbors, you may want to let everyone know about it. Also, the newsletter accepts "Want Ads" if you need a service or have something to sell. To encourage participation, we have kept our prices low, as indicated below.

- Full page: \$100 each edition
- Half page: \$50 each edition
- Quarter page: \$25 each edition
- Eighth page: \$15 each edition

From the Webmaster by Juan Moreno



Good deal!

I spend too much time on-line.
I know... But here is my contribution for all of
you that spend some time surfing for good deals:

FREE TELEPHONE LONG DISTANCE CALLS!

I couldn't believe it, until I tried it. The quality of
the sound is comparable to a cell phone, but is
very reliable. These guys even offer free
voicemail! The catch... you have to see the ads
on their screen. Log on to **<http://www.dialpad.com>**
and log on. You can create an account for
free.

With this service, you can use your computer to
call anybody in the U.S. for free. You have to
use your computer's sound card and your
microphone & speakers. You can call anybody
and it really is free. This service works only for
computers using any version of Microsoft
Windows operating system (95, 98, 2000 and NT
4.0). The requirements for this are:

Windows 95/98/2000 or NT 4.0
FULL DUPLEX Sound card
Microphone & Speakers or a headset microphone
Internet connection
MS Internet Explorer 4.0+ with Java VM 5.0 or
Netscape Communicator 4.5+

The website will detect if you sound card is
capable of full duplex communications or half
duplex. The difference is that with a half duplex,
you have to toggle between talking and
listening... like the one-way radio system where
you have to say 'OVER' and push a button to
talk. A new sound card will cost less than \$60
on-line.

Which telephones can I call?

You can call any telephone in the USA: local,

LATA, long distance, 1-800, or cell phones. Gener-
ally, if you can reach it with your normal phone,
you can call with **Dialpad**. You can also dial a
company's name, such as 800-FLOWERS. Only a
few phone numbers are blocked: 911 (emergency,) 411
(information,) 800-555-1212 (the 800 direc-
tory,) the 1-900 pay-per-call numbers, and collect
call numbers such as 800-COLLECT or 800-
CALL-ATT (but that doesn't matter, you can call
for free anyway.) If your friend is also signed up
with Dialpad, then both of you can talk computer-
to-computer from anywhere in the world to any-
where in the world (such as from Norway to Sri
Lanka.) Just dial your friend's Dialpad user ID.

Tips: Use a headset. Microphones can create feed-
back if placed too close to the speakers. For all of us
with family overseas... our family can connect to
this website from abroad, and call us for free! Cur-
rently, the system only accepts call directed to U.S.
numbers, but their info shows plans for interna-
tional service.

Willow Meadows Website hits!

The goal of the website has been "To enhance com-
munication" among neighbors. I consider this an
accomplished goal. So far, here are the numbers:

Unique Visitors in Aug. 2000 (up to Aug 10): 126
Total visits in Aug. 2000: 202
Total visits in July 2000: 290
Total visits in June 2000: 387
Unique Visitors since start day: 1520
Total visitors since start day: 2431

Our email server also has already over 200
neighbor email addresses that participate in our
mailing list. We are keeping the list very protected;
to avoid annoying junk e-mail messages and to
keep it only for Willow Meadows related mail.

The bulletin board has also received acceptance.
We can find multiple discussions about different
topics that concern all of us.

Keep up your visits, and see you in cyber-space! If
you have any questions, e-mail me at [webmas-
ter@willowmeadows.org](mailto:webmaster@willowmeadows.org).

When you are thinking about Real Estate
there is only one name to know!
"The Area Specialist"

David Montz Broker/Owner

RE/MAX Metro 713 528 1800

#1 Re/Max agent for Central Houston

Grew up in Willow Meadows and Current Resident
Residential Sales, Leasing and Managing