



Willowlake Watch

www.willowlake.siteblast.com

December 2011

Volume 8, Issue 12

The Official Publication of the Willowlake Homeowners Association

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From the Willowlake Board of Directors

Disposal of Christmas Trees

In case some of you are wondering about what manner to dispose of your Christmas trees, I contacted VF Waste Services and was informed of the following: Normal waste pickup days following the holidays will be Wednesdays December 28, January 4 and 11. Residents should place their Christmas trees at the curb for regular trash disposal. Live Christmas trees that are picked up by VF Waste Services will NOT be recycled; however, there are other places that will recycle the trees if brought to them. Christmas trees do not need to be cut up, but this is optional. Placing Christmas trees inside a garbage bag is much cleaner so that no tree debris will remain on the ground, but this is also optional. Because it is unsightly to see holiday trees and trash left at the curb for several days at a time, we ask that all residents please place these trees, along with their trash, at the curb the night before or the day of any regular scheduled waste pickup days.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

By Linda O'Pry, Newsletter Editor

New Year's Eve Fireworks

The Willowlake Board of Directors requests that this New Year's Eve, all residents execute caution regarding fireworks, and that they use fireworks responsibly and away from children. We ask that you stay out of busy streets and away from parked cars for the same reasons. Please end the firework festivities by 1:00 a.m. in consideration of your neighbors. Be sure to sweep up debris after setting off fireworks and dispose of it in the trash. Please do not dump debris and waste in the sewer or in our lake or wetlands area near the gazebo. Have fun, be safe!! **NOTE: Watch for possible fireworks ban due to drought conditions.**

Willowlake Communication TO DO LIST

- SIGN UP FOR A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT (FREE)
- SEARCH FOR WILLOWLAKE H.O.A.
- JOIN THE WILLOWLAKE H.O.A. GROUP
- RECEIVE IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS VIA EMAIL!

2012 ASSESSMENTS

By Randall Management

Billing of the 2012 Willowlake assessments is just around the corner! As a reminder, if you are unable to pay your assessments in full by the due date of January 1st, 2012, please contact Randall Management Services and set up installment arrangements. The installment plan does not stop the late penalty in February but it does stop any further collection proceedings. Charge for a four (4) month installment plan is \$15.00 and the installment fee doesn't begin until February 1st. You may also, prior to January 1st and at no additional cost, make payments anytime toward your next year's assessment; giving you a head-start in paying off your balance.

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

DECEMBER 7

On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we mourn the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on December 7, 1941.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

All Emergencies.....	911
Bratton Pools.....	281-988-7700
Cypress-Fairbanks Hospital	281-897-3300
Harris County Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Department of Public Safety	281-890-5440
Fire Department (non-emergency)	713-466-6161
Center Point Energy - Power Outages Only ...	713-207-2222
Center Point Energy - Gas.....	713-659-2111
Harris County Animal Control	281-999-3191
Memorial City Hospital	713-932-3000
MUD #11	281-807-9500
Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
Willowplace Post Office	281-890-2392
Harris County Road & Bridge	281-353-8424
VF Waste Services, Inc.	713-787-9790
Harris Co. Public Health & Environ. Svcs.	713-920-2831

MANAGEMENT INFO

Your Randall Management, Inc. Team.....	713-728-1126
Association Manager	
Jane Godwin	jgodwin@randallmanagement.com, ext. 11
Assistant Manager	
Janet Bonura	jbonura@randallmanagement.com, ext. 17
Deed Restriction Coordinator	
Lucy Mora.....	deed@randallmanagement.com, ext. 18
Accounting Contacts	
Janeth Flores	collections2@randallmanagement.com, ext. 25
Lily Flores	collections@randallmanagement.com, ext. 22
Answering Service: 713-850-4729 - After Business Hours (For Emergencies)	

For information on your homeowner's assessments,
deed restriction violations or questions in general please
contact:Randall Management, Inc.
6200 Savoy, Suite 420, Houston, TX 77036
Phone: 713-728-1126 Fax: 713-728-5015
www.rqsmith@randallmanagement.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Debi Bon.....	debibon@sbcglobal.net
Stacey Ward.....	w.stacey@sbcglobal.net
Daniel Flores	dsflores10@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Kapell.....	nancykapell@yahoo.com
David Bannen	dbannen@att.net

NEWSLETTER INFO

Newsletter Publisher

Peel, Inc.	888-687-6444
Sales Office.....	advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

2011 COMMITTEES

Architectural Control Committee	
Mark Lackey	markl@comcast.net
Social Events	OPEN
Newsletter	
Linda O'Pry	mommyma1422@sbcglobal.net
Yard of the Month	
.....	OPEN
Security Chairman	
.....	OPEN
Block Captains	
James Deitiker	deitikerj@yahoo.com
Gazebo Rental - Randall Management	713-728-1126
Pool Chairman	
Lynn Piwonski	LMP4040@yahoo.com
Park Chairman	
Diego Lamacchia.....	dmacchia@hotmail.com

**NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec. 7	Nat. Pearl Harbor Rem. Day
Dec. 7,14,21,28	Waste/Recycle Pickup
Dec. 15	Board Meeting
Dec. 22	Winter Begins
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 31	New Years Eve
Jan. 1.....	New Years Day
Jan. 1.....	Assessments Due

Bread & Ducks - Breaking the Bread Habit

By Lori Goodman

It's a beautiful day, you gather up the family and a loaf of bread and head to the water to feed the ducks.

Ducks beg for our attention and our food, which makes them hard to resist. It's great fun watching them gorge themselves on our leftovers, but the fact is, feeding ducks anything destroys their health and creates serious health risks to humans. Once they get a taste for junk food they stop eating the healthy natural foods in their environment.

WILD AND DOMESTIC DUCKS ARE NOT THE SAME.

There are fundamental differences between wild and domestic ducks. Feeding them is not just bad for their health, but it's dangerous to our health too.

WILD DUCKS

The colorful Mallards and other wild ducks you see on many lakes and ponds have bodies that allow them to fly. They are physically designed to eat natural foods growing in their environment to stay healthy and light for flight. Sometimes a specially formulated duck food is provided to them, but only under strict supervision of park officials, when wild ducks are in a man-made setting or natural foods are not available. When wild ducks are fed human foods their organs become engorged and fatty on the inside and they quickly die from malnutrition, heart disease, liver problems and other health complications. An overfed, malnourished duck is sluggish and can't escape from predators. Feeding wild ducks adversely affects natural migration patterns, which are critical for their ongoing survival.

DOMESTIC DUCKS

Domestic breeds, like the popular Pekin, a white duck with orange beak and feet (think AFLAC), are physically limited. Domestic ducks that you often see swimming alongside wild breeds do not belong in wild settings. They have been bred on farms for hundreds of years for meat or egg production. Some of these ducks become pets in private homes.

Domestic breeds are not born with fine-tuned instincts and resources of wild ducks. Nearly all domestic breeds can't fly. They rely on humans for their daily care and feeding and are especially

vulnerable to predators. They die quickly in the wild, mostly from complications from being fed human foods. Predatory attacks are common because domestic ducks can't fly away to safety. They die of starvation in winter months in cold climates where food resources become scarce. Feeding these stranded ducks might seem like the only way to save them, but in fact it is attracting more trouble than they can handle. Calling a wildlife rehabilitation expert is the most humane course of action. Feeding them is NOT the answer.

Under controlled conditions such as on farms or in private homes, domestic ducks are fed a balanced diet to maintain their health until they are 1.) ready for slaughter; 2.) to keep them healthy for egg laying; 3.) to maintain the long term health of a family pet.

Depending on the use for the duck, whether for food or as a pet, the balance of nutrients will change slightly. The food routinely purchased in feed stores and pet shops is a staple food. A pet duck can be given treats occasionally as long as the staple food remains the main source of nutrition.

WITHOUT PREDATORS YOU'D HAVE PARKS FULL OF DEAD, ROTTING DUCKS

Domestic breeds are seen more and more in parks and other wild settings because they are dumped there by the thousands every year, typically in the months following Easter. These ducks increase in numbers every year not because they reproduce at a natural pace. People "release" these ducks with the misconception that they are returning them to their natural environment. The natural environment for a domestic breed of duck is a farm. Dumped ducks don't survive long; they have imprinted on humans and rarely die of natural causes in a wild setting.

Feeding domestic ducks living in "wild" settings encourages overbreeding. Ducks become unnaturally aggressive towards each other and a nuisance to humans. They lose their fear and will cross a busy highway to get to people with potential handouts. They die in greater numbers than most people realize because a dead or dying duck is preyed on before the body is found by humans. Without predators to carry them off you'd have parks full of dead, rotting, ducks. Such a horrific sight would shock most of us enough to stop feeding them.

(Continued on Page 4)



Register for MyVirtualNeighbor.com **FREE**
"easy sign up to join your Residential Community"

"MY VIRTUAL NEIGHBOR"

" Here, YOU Create Stronger Communities "

3000 sage luxury community, cuts crime by **80%** in 20 days. How?
Check out My Virtual Neighbor.....

Log On: www.MyVirtualNeighbor.com 

"Meet your neighbors and keep everyone well informed"





"Living, loving, and learning in Christ and the Church."
6646 Addicks Satsuma Rd.
Houston, TX 77084
281-463-1444
www.seasc.org

EXCELLENT CURRICULUM • ATHLETICS
COMPUTER & SCIENCE LABS
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Open House
Feb. 1, 2012
9 am – 2 pm
6 – 8 pm

At no time will any source be allowed to use the Willowlake contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from the Willowlake Homeowners Association and Peel, Inc. The information in the Willowlake Watch is exclusively for the private use of Willowlake residents only.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

Bread & Ducks - (Continued from Page 3)

So many people are feeding the ducks that uneaten food is left to rot. Decaying food pollutes the water and attracts animals that prey on ducks and can be a danger to humans. Rats and bugs eat the leftovers and become a dangerous nuisance. In a matter of days, rotting food forms dangerous molds and spawns disease. Diseases traced back to scattered food include Salmonella and Botulism. These may be contracted by humans, especially children. In addition, Aspergillus and Duck Virus Enteritis kill off entire duck populations. In some cases a disease outbreak makes euthanizing entire waterfowl communities the only option in order to eradicate the spread of disease to more animals and humans.

A DUCK WILL EAT ANYTHING

Are there any safe treats? The answer is no. It is unsafe to feed waterfowl any foods, even in urban settings. You may think just a "little something" won't hurt, or see others doing it and feel entitled too. For every person you see feeding them there are a dozens more you don't see.

HUMAN IGNORANCE IS A DUCK'S WORST ENEMY

Pet stores and animal shelters can play a part in educating the public about the dangers of feeding ducks. School children can be taught that respecting and protecting wildlife means not feeding them. Signs posted in urban areas, and laws prohibiting feeding ducks can be passed and enforced. In settings where domestics are encouraged by trained caretakers and feeding is allowed, feeders containing foods that are safe for ducks can be implemented. I've seen highly populated areas that provide feeders with proceeds going to local charities.

FOOD ATTRACTS MORE THAN JUST DUCKS

- 1.) Feeding ducks attracts rats, pests and predators that kill ducks and endanger humans.
- 2.) Rotting food pollutes the water and breeds deadly diseases and parasites...
 - A single outbreak of Duck Virus Enteritis (caused by artificial feeding) kills all of the ducks.
 - Uneaten food quickly forms a deadly mold called Aspergillus; fatal to ducks without early diagnosis and expensive treatment.
 - Avian Botulism (caused by artificial feeding) kills entire waterfowl populations and hospitalizes people.
 - Artificially fed ducks emit a parasite causing a condition in humans called Swimmers Itch.
- 3.) Ducks defecate at the site of scattered food or bread, bacteria in feces creates much higher risks for illness or disease.
- 4.) Most waterfowl die-offs in the past 10 years have been attributed to artificial feeding.
- 5.) Food waste bobbling on the water's edge is ugly.
- 6.) Ducks that are overfed create dangerous amounts of waste that harms fish and other animals living in ponds.
- 7.) Some foods like corn may be OK as a snack for ducks, but fish can't digest it and die. Seeds cause severe cramping pain in ducks.

(Continued on Page 5)



GRACIE GALVAN

Realtor

SRES, CHMS, & ALHS Specialist

RE/MAX

Professional Group

galvangracie@hotmail.com

Direct: 281-732-0009

Office: 832-478-1246



Area resident for 17 years.

SELLING YOUR HOME

- Free Market Analysis

BUYING A HOME

- Free Home Search Service

**LOOK NO FURTHER FOR GREAT
CUSTOMER SERVICE AND PUT
EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR YOU!**

Member of HAR/MLS service

Always working for you!



Bread & Ducks - (Continued from Page 4)

Please don't feed the ducks

"GOOD LUCK" CAN KILL A DUCK

Coins and objects tossed into water are ingested by ducks and pose a serious health hazard. The amount of zinc in a single penny is enough to kill a duck. Ducks scour the bottom of ponds and lakes in search of food and ingest coins, hardware, fishing tackle and lead pellets. At home, screws, nails, paper clips, or any small objects found on the ground can be ingested by a pet duck. Objects should never be tossed into the water or left on the ground for a duck to find.

Foreign objects that can't be digested quickly lodge themselves in the gizzard. As digestion begins, the metal breaks down and toxins enter the bloodstream, bones and muscle tissue. Symptoms of poisoning include weakness, diarrhea, collapse and death. With early treatment by an avian specialist the duck has a small chance of survival. Treatment is expensive.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR LOCAL DUCKS

The next time you are out enjoying your community's lakes, ponds, canals, golf courses and other places where ducks live simply observe the beauty of the animals and refrain from interfering by feeding them

- Never toss coins or other objects into water where animals live.
- Remember that ducks live much longer when they eat foods growing naturally in their environment.
- Educate others about the dangers of feeding ducks. Most people don't realize they are doing anything wrong, some mistakenly believe they are helping.
- Tell people what you learned on the Live Ducks website.
- Print this article and take it to school classrooms where ducks and chickens are studied. Encourage Parks and Recreation Departments to post signs warning people about the dangers of feeding waterfowl and wildlife.

KIDS' CORNER TOP (7) THINGS TO SAY ABOUT A CHRISTMAS GIFT YOU DON'T LIKE:

- 1. Hey! There's a gift!
- 2. Well, well, well.
- 3. I love it -- but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.
- 4. Gosh. I hope this never catches fire! It is fire season though. There are lots of unexplained fires.
- 5. If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!
- 6. To think -- I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.
- 7. I really don't deserve this.



Thank You
**TO ALL OUR
2011
ADVERTISERS!**

PEEL, INC.
www.peelinc.com
512-263-9181

*Wishing everyone a
Happy Holiday
Season!*



Harris County Sheriff's Office CRIME REPORT

WILLOWLAKE (10/1/2011 - 10/31/2011)

PRO-ACTIVE CALLS

Meet the Citizen - 0
Solicitors - 0
Suspicious Person - 0
Suspicious Vehicle - 2
Traffic Stop - 4
Traffic Initiative - 0
Welfare Check - 1
Vacation Watch - 0

RE-ACTIVE CALLS

Aggressive Animal - 0
Assault - 0
Burglary/Hab - 1
Burglary/Motveh - 1
Credit Card Abuse - 0
Crim. Mischief - 1

Discharge Firearm - 1
Disturbance/Family - 1
Disturbance/Juvenile - 0
Disturbance/Loud Noise - 1
Disturbance/Other - 0
Drug/OD/Poss - 0
Forgery - 1
Fraudulent Use ID - 0
In Progress - 0
Missing Person - 0
Open Door/Window - 0
Robbery/Aggravated - 0
Theft/Residence - 0
Theft/Other - 1
Vehicle Stolen - 0

What You Missed

*If you haven't read the newsletter lately,
here are some articles you missed, to name only
a few; plus, articles coming in January:*

- **In October:** Solicitation Informational Article, Deed Restrictions: What Are They For? And Proper Etiquette for Runners/Walkers
- **In November:** Veterans Honored and Sheriff Launches Mobile App For Citizens To Turn In Crime Tips
- **Coming In January:** Annual Meeting Update, Waste/Recycle Information and more jokes.
- **Remember:** You can go to Peel, Inc.com and view ALL of our newsletters dating back to 2005. Be informed!

By Linda O'Pry, Newsletter Editor

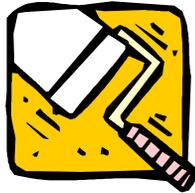
Bashans Painting & Home Repair

Commercial/Residential
Free Estimates

281-347-6702



281-731-3383 cell



- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Hardi Plank Installation
- Wood Replacement
- Sheetrock Repair
- Interior Carpentry
- Cabinet Painting
- Wallpaper Removal and Texturizing
- Pressure Washing
- Fence Repair/Replacement
- Garage Floor Epoxy
- Custom Staining
- Roofing
- Gutter Repair/Replacement
- Faux Painting
- Door Refinishing
- Window Installation
- Trash Removal
- Ceiling Fan/Light Fixtures

References Available • Fully Insured
NO PAYMENT UNTIL COMPLETION
bashanspainting@earthlink.net



Brilliant Energy = Seriously LOW Electricity Rates

Brilliant Energy's Electricity Rates Challenge The Rates of Every Other Electricity Provider in Texas!

Lock-in a low electricity rate for up to 3-years!

Easy Online Sign-Up at BrilliantElectricity.com
USE "NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER" AS REFERRAL



Brilliant Energy is recommended by
Texas Energy Analyst, Alan Lammy
the host of the 'Energy Week' radio
show on NewsTalk 1070 KNTH!

**Ask the "Energy Analyst":
281-658-0395**

Great Business Rates Too!

Brilliant Energy Texas PUC #10140



HOLIDAY SAFETY

This Holiday Season, protect yourself, your family and your property against criminals. Criminals have a “desire” to commit crimes against those who are not aware of what is going on around them. The holidays are an opportune time for a criminal to commit these offenses. Know your surroundings and don’t become a “target.” It’s up to YOU to make sure that a criminal does not have the “opportunity” to take advantage of you and your family.

USE COMMON SENSE, STAY CALM WHILE SHOPPING

- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Shop with a friend; there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check, credit, or debit card.
- If possible, carry only your driver’s license, personal checks, or necessary credit or debit cards.
- If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. You could risk injury from a would-be purse snatcher. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm or wear a fanny pack.
- Do not carry wallets in a back pocket. It should be placed in a front pocket for safety.
- Be alert, criminals look for the “high dollar store” shopping bags with your purchases. When possible, slip bags/purchases in a plain nondescript bag.
- Watch purchases while eating in mall food courts; bags as well as purses can easily be switched or taken.
- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost, as well as what to do if a “stranger” should try and take them.
- Don’t overburden yourself with too many packages. This jeopardizes your safety while walking to your vehicle. You should either make multiple trips to your vehicle or have your packages sent to package pick-up, where you may retrieve them in a well-lit and heavily populated area.
- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store. They also make a great weapon, should you need to defend yourself.

- If you do return to your vehicle to unload packages and continue shopping, place your purchases in the trunk. Be observant of anyone watching, and if possible, move the vehicle to another parking space to deter a burglary of your vehicle.
- Try not to shop until the store closes. Remember, fewer people are present at this time.

IN PARKING LOTS

- Shop early and leave early to avoid evening darkness.
- Park in a high visibility area and check for lighting in case you leave during the hours of darkness.
- DO NOT park next to a vehicle with dark tinted windows. Waiting assailants can be obscured from view upon your return.
- Before shopping, lock all your valuables in the trunk prior to parking in the parking lot.
- Leave the store with a group of people, not alone.
- Ask the Security Officer to escort you to your vehicle if you are uncomfortable.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out fliers or asking questions in the parking area.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well as outside the store. If you suspect that you are being followed, report it to the store or mall Security immediately.

AT HOME

- Keep the outside of your home well-lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
- Don’t display gifts beneath the Christmas tree that can be seen from windows or doors.
- After the holidays, don’t advertise gifts received by the boxes left for trash collection. Destroy boxes and place in a sealed, non-clear bag.

IF YOU ARE TRAVELING

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, collect mail, park in the driveway, etc.
- Try to remember to have the mail and

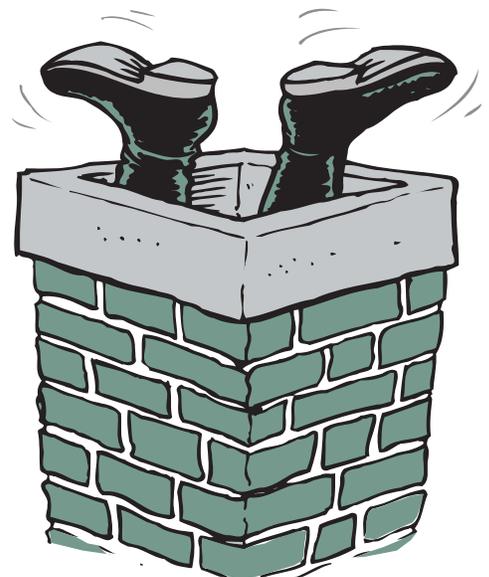
newspaper deliveries stopped. If it piles up, it’s a sure sign you’re gone. Because emergencies may occur, this is not always possible. Rely on friends and neighbors to help.

TAKE AN INVENTORY

Make good use of your holiday time. Take an inventory of your property. This is especially good for insurance purposes in case of burglary or fire. Make a video or take photos of your items and make a list of these valuable items. You should list all electronics, jewelry, silver, power tools, sporting equipment, etc. Properly mark these items with your Texas driver’s license or Texas I.D. number. Keep a copy of the videos, pictures, and your list in a fireproof safe or safety deposit box. This will definitely make insurance claims easier to file.

For more information visit:
www.houstonpolice.org

*Stay Safe &
Have a
Happy Holiday!*





PEEL, INC.

308 Meadowlark St.
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

WL



RE/MAX
Professional Group
832-478-1205

Willowlake

**T
H
A
N
K
Y
O
U**



David's Team provided constant status updates and managed every detail. Their expertise and dedication gave us an advantage during a down market. We had a contract within three weeks at our asking price!

- The Hamilton Family



David Flory

Direct line:

281-477-0345

WWW.SUPERDAVE.COM

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

- **#1 Realtor in Willowlake***
- **#2 Realtor in Houston & Texas****
- **#7 Realtor in United States****
- **Selling Over 500 Homes A Year**

*According to information taken from the HAR/MLS Computer
**Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2008, 3/2009