



Willowlake Watch

www.willowlake.siteblast.com

May 2012

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The Official Publication of the Willowlake Homeowners Association

Bunny Spotted Easter Weekend!

My family and I spotted this cute bunny in our front yard Easter weekend. Could it really be?? Well, you know who. My two year old granddaughter, Emily, believes it was and that he brought her chocolate and hid eggs for her to find. Her brother, Nicholas, had his own idea about the sighting, but still had fun with his sister. The bunny has returned several times since and we have named it Flopsy.

By Linda O'Pry



MEMORIAL DAY

May 28

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May, which is May 28 in 2012. It was formally known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women, who have died in military service for the United States. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day and it is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season. It is traditional to fly the flag of the United States at half mast from dawn until noon. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

ARMED FORCES DAY

May 19

In the United States, "Armed Forces Day" is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. In 2012 it will be on May 19. The day was created in 1949, and was a result of the consolidation of the military services in the Department of Defense. It was intended to replace the separate Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Days, but observance of these days, especially within each particular service, continues to this day.

The purpose of Armed Forces Day is to honor Americans serving in the five services - the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

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
District 5 Vacation Watch.....	281-290-2100

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After business hours for
common area emergencies..... (713) 850-4729

For information on your homeowner's assessments, deed
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Randall Management, Inc.

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Yard of the Month..... OPEN

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Personal Classifieds

FOR SALE: Heavy wooden oval-shaped pinewood table with medium dark finish in excellent condition, a great deal for \$50. Ends of table can be folded down for convenience. If interested call 832-248-3997.

FOR SALE: Craftsman Riding Lawn Mower in great condition, 18.5 horsepower, 42 inch cut deck, Briggs-Stratton motor, new battery. If interested call 281-795-1777.

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

RECIPES OF THE MONTH

Breast of Chicken with Shrimp & Pecan Brown Rice

Ingredients

Instructions

BREAST OF CHICKEN WITH SHRIMP

- 2 large chicken breasts
1/2 c. chopped onion
1 clove of garlic, minced
3/4 c. dry white wine
Nutmeg, salt and pepper, to taste
1 1/2 c. shrimp
2 T. butter or margarine
1/2 c. all-purpose flour
2 T. parsley, chopped
2 T. butter or margarine
1/2 c. sour cream
1/2 c. celery, chopped
Pecan Brown Rice (see recipe following)
1 1/2 c. fresh mushrooms, sliced

Rinse chicken and pat dry. Cut into bite-sized pieces. Sprinkle with seasonings. Let stand in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Coat well with flour. Brown in 2 tablespoons butter in skillet. Add celery, mushrooms, onion and wine. Simmer, covered, for 30 minutes. Saute shrimp in 2 tablespoons butter in skillet for 5 minutes. Add to chicken mixture. Add parsley and sour cream. Cook until heated through. Serve over Pecan Brown Rice. Yields: 4 servings

PECAN BROWN RICE

- 3 1/4 c. cold water
1/8 t. pepper
1 1/2 c. brown rice
3/4 c. pecans, coarsely chopped & toasted
2 T. butter or margarine
2 t. instant chicken bouillon
1/4 c. parsley, chopped

Combine rice, water, butter, bouillon and pepper in large saucepan; cover lightly. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Cook for 40 minutes; do not remove cover. Remove from heat. Let stand covered for 10 minutes. Stir in toasted pecans and parsley. Yields: 4 servings.

Submit your favorite recipes to leroylallinger@live.com.

Kids' Corner

A small town's sheriff was also its lone veterinarian. One night the phone rang and his wife answered. "Let me speak to your husband!" a voice demanded. "Do you require his services as a sheriff or a vet?" the wife asked. "Both," cried the caller. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it."

Mark Your Calendar

- May 1.....Pool Opens
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.....Waste/Recycle Pickup
May 3.....National Day of Prayer
May 13.....Mother's Day
May 19.....Armed Forces Day
May 28.....Memorial Day
May 30.....Last Day of School
May 31.....Board Meeting
June 1.....Hurricane Season Begins

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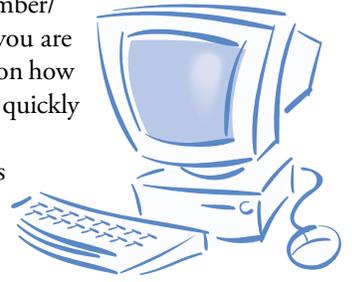
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Interesting Web Site

<http://gethuman.com/phone-number/>

Just type in the company name you are looking for and you will get details on how to get through an automated system quickly and talk to a human being.

Do you also have useful web sites to share with our residents? If so, contact the newsletter editor with details.



Help Is On The Way

Caught up running errands, my mom's friend forgot where she'd parked. A police officer, noticing her agitation, asked, "Is something wrong?"

"I can't find my car," she explained.

"What kind is it?"

She gave him a quizzical look. "Name some."

-By Lila Dryer

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VISIT US ONLINE

Did you know that drowning is still the #1 cause of accidental death for children under 5 and the #2 cause for children ages 1-14?



Join us as we celebrate May as National Water Safety month. Please keep your family safe around water and have the **Best May Ever!**

THREE WAYS TO REPORT A CRIME

CALL US

Call 713-222-TIPS (8477)

We do not ask for your name. Callers are given a code number. Information is forwarded to law enforcement. After arrest, cash rewards are paid.

SEND US A TEXT MESSAGE

Text TIP610 plus your tip to CRIMES (274637).

Your phone number remains unknown. Code number sent back to you.

SUBMIT ONLINE

Visit www.crime-stoppers.org.

Fill out the online form and submit. Code number will be issued after submission.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$5,000 for any information that leads to the charging or arrest of a felony suspect.

Harris County Sheriff's Office Crime Report

Willowlake (March 1, 2012 - March 31, 2012)

Accident	1	Open Door/Wdw	0
Alarm Local	6	Solicitors	2
Alarm Silent	0	Stranded MV	0
Assault/Agg	0	Susp Person	4
Burglary/Motveh	0	Telephone/Harras	1
Check Park	37	Terroristic Thrt	1
Contract Check	156	Theft/Business	0
Credit Card Abuse	0	Theft/Other	0
Crim Mischief	1	Traf Initiative	0
Dist/Family	0	Traffic Hazard	0
Dist/Loud Noise	0	Traffic Stop	1
Dist/Other	0	Vacation Watch	0
DWI	0	Veh Abandoned	1
Follow Up	1	Veh Suspicious	3
Forgery	1	Vehicle Recovery	0
Fraudulent ID	1	Vehicle Stolen	0
In Progress	1	Welfare Check	1
Meet the Citizen	2	- Submitted by Dave Bannen, Director of the Board and Neighborhood Watch Chairman	
Missing Person	0		
Mud Building Ck	1		

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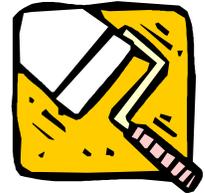
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An Alternative to Garage Sales

FYI, the article below was written by a concerned Willowbridge resident for their Willow Talk community newsletter. As editor of the Willowlake newsletter, I asked and was given permission to use this article in our newsletter because I felt it was food for thought. Upon reading it, some residents will choose to continue to have their garage sales while others might have reservations. It's your decision but perhaps we should all weigh the pros and cons before deciding. Please read on:

I read the garage sale notice in the Willowbridge News; however, I am not sure which residences or how many are asking "when are we going to have another garage sale?" One thing can be said for annual garage sales though; they attract high volumes of traffic which will block street access and driveways.

Door-to-door garage sales in upscale communities will aid to solicit criminal activity from many surrounding locations. These types of events help fuel thieves with a free access cover to gain knowledge of home property security weaknesses, ages and sex of family members, and the types of vehicles and other equipment they own. These type of events can also create an atmosphere for future vandalism and life threatening situations if the more experienced predators decide to come back later with additional resources to cause a more long lasting chaos effect.

As we continue to have more home burglaries in this down economy and



try to keep solicitors out of our community that may have alternative reasons why they are actually here, we need to keep our guard up to be successful in protecting the environment we live in and not invite events that may cause more harm than good for our community security efforts.

There are many ways to sell or donate surplus items without putting the community at risk for possible security problems. I encourage and recommend folks to join in with a friend or family member that lives in a community that allows these types of sale events.

The websites below offer free ads that can bring much more money than a typical garage sale ever could. If you have access to a digital camera and know someone with decent computer writing skills, the financial rewards will be much more beneficial and safer for everyone.

<http://houston.craigslist.org/>

<http://houston.ebayclassifieds.com/>

<http://www.houstonsuperads.com/Classifieds/index.aspx>

Trader's Village also hosts large weekend roof covered community garage sale events for reasonable prices. This is an affordable way for residences to group together and to organize their own garage sale.

<http://tradersvillage.com/houston>



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Willowlake Neighborhood Watch Program

In December 2011, Willowlake kicked off our Neighborhood Watch (NW) program. It's simply a program to create awareness, and get to know the neighborhood better.

It's been proven that being visible, and looking out for our neighbors will stop crime in the neighborhood before it gets started.

Our goal is to have a NW block captain on each street. What are a NW block captain's responsibilities? Basically, sharing some proven crime safety tips and spending some time getting to know your neighbors a little better.

Educate your neighbors on when and who to contact should they see something suspicious. The KEY is Communication and Information. Report anything suspicious to the local law enforcement agency. They would prefer to spend 10 minutes checking out a call than 10 days following up on a crime that has already been committed.

A Block Captain is NOT expected to solve the crimes, nor are they to interfere with the investigation. A Block Captain is in a position to gather and provide information to the Sheriff's Department through the Neighborhood Watch program.

A Block Captain will NEVER CONFRONT A SUSPECT - IT CAN BE DANGEROUS! YOU ARE NOT LAW ENFORCEMENT; LET THE TRAINED EXPERTS HANDLE THE CASE.

If you See Something, Say Something. Know who to call. Find out who your NW block captain is on your street. If there isn't one yet, consider volunteering as a captain. We'd like to cover every street, and with your help we can. Sound interesting?

To volunteer contact HOA board member Dave Bannen at dbannen@att.net. Willowlake needs you!



FOLLOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Log on to the Willowlake HOA Facebook page. Willowlake Activities and Security Alerts are posted on our neighborhood Facebook page at www.facebook.com. Once you have an account, join the Willowlake HOA group. Don't miss out - stay informed on what's going on in Willowlake!

What You Missed

If you didn't read the April newsletter, here's a few of the articles you missed:

1. Pool Opens May 1
2. Pool Registration Information and Form
3. Association 2012 Pool Rules
4. Harris County Alarm Detail
5. Parking Violations & Texas State Laws
6. Jokes and more...

No problem, you can still go to our web site at www.willowlake.siteblast.com and view this or any of our newsletters dating back to 2005. How convenient is that?

Thanks for reading the newsletter!

By Linda O'Pry, Newsletter Editor

Want to volunteer for a good cause that's close to home? Willowlake is looking for volunteers!

Neighborhood Watch Captain Responsibilities:

- Get to know your neighbors
- Coordinate reporting of suspicious activity on your block
- Stay informed of neighborhood activities
- Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings, (as needed, ~ 1/ month or Qtr).
- Training provided.

Social Event Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Work with a team of other neighbors to coordinate community events; including National Night Out, Gathering at the Gazebo, Book Club, Bunko and other events.

Welcome Committee Member Responsibilities:

- Work with fellow neighbors to welcome new residents to Willowlake.
- Deliver our welcome packet. Lots of fun and a great way to meet your new neighbors.

WE need YOU to build a stronger community.

Contact HOA Board Member Dave Bannen at dbannen@att.net to volunteer.

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- Alan & Kathy Lindsey -



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