



Willowbend Civic Club

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY WILLOWBEND CIVIC CLUB
WILLOWBEND IS A DEED-RESTRICTED NEIGHBORHOOD, SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTARY DUES. ESTABLISHED IN 1952
WWW.WILLOWBENDCIVICCLUB.ORG INFO@WILLOWBENDCIVICCLUB.ORG
EDITOR: MARY TYSOR - EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY WBCC BOARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS

SEPTEMBER 2022



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

VOLUNTEER!

BE A NATIONAL NIGHT OUT HOST FOR YOUR BLOCK!

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer.

For years Willowbend neighbors have been gathering in front yards on the first Tuesday of October for NNO. It's a fun night out to meet your neighbors! We share crime prevention and safety information. The more we know and practice, the safer the neighborhood will be for all.

HOST A NNO BLOCK PARTY.

Hosting a party is easy. All you have to do is set up a couple of tables, chairs and provide some drinks. Willowbend Civic Club will provide you with invitations that you can pass on to your neighbors, and other materials to host. Invite your neighbors to bring a dish to share, a lawn chair, drinks, and you can even invite them to co-host with you. **If you would like to host or co-host a party, please contact us at NNOWillowbend@gmail.com or call Angela Ritchey at 832-930-3227. The deadline to let us know if you would to be a host is Wednesday, September 14**

ATTEND A NNO BLOCK PARTY.

If your block has a volunteer host, you will receive an invitation a week before the event. Your block party host may ask you to bring refreshments, a dish to share and a lawn chair. Please be sure to attend and meet your neighbors. You'll be glad you did!

Willowbend Civic Club would like to see a NNO party in every block. Your participation in NNO is one of the best ways to keep you and our neighborhood safer.

A QUICK NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am hoping that your summer was full of adventure and rest. The Fall weather is almost here, I know I cannot wait! Your Willowbend Civic Club has been active in many ways. We had our first board meeting for this fiscal year in late July. Board members are excited about this year and hoping we can accomplish many things for our neighborhood. Among other items, this summer we hosted a security meeting, we are engaging the Houston Parks and Recreation division to help us with the trimming of the trees on the boulevard, work is being done to improve our communications, we are creating a "New Resident Welcome committee", our security program has a new volunteer who will be collecting crime data so we can better allocate security patrol, and of course, Neighbor's Night Out is coming up—thank you to all who have already volunteered to host a party!

Please be on the lookout for updates on some of these efforts. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please contact us at info@willowbendcivicclub.org. *Mary Tysor*

WILLOWBEND CIVIC CLUB

YOUR WILLOWBEND

By: Beanie Adolph, Willowbend Resident

(Longtime Willowbend resident, Beanie Adolph, has served in many leadership positions of our Civic Club for many years, contributing countless volunteer hours and years of care and concern for our community. Beanie remains active on important Civic Club projects, including her personal involvement in assuring that each of us receive this newsletter – properly delivered to every door! Below, she offers her insights on WBCC's past and her hopes for its future.)

In 1960 Willowbend became our family's home. Willowbend was almost "spanking new" with all new streets, homes, and families. It was new but the families' values were traditional American values – pride in home ownership and freedom to maintain their homes.

Even the Civic Club Board was representative of America. Whereas most HOAs and Civic Clubs had three to five member boards, the founders of Willowbend directed the board to consist of 15 members who would be representative of the entire subdivision of some 740 homes. As a result, each year the neighborhood has benefited from a hard-working board united to keep Willowbend free and independent.

Willowbend is diverse and reflects individuality even as siblings in a family reflect individuality. There is and always will be differences but respect for others is the key that unites. In that spirit Willowbend grew and prospered until a group knocked on doors in 1999, presenting a thick package of Deed Restrictions stating these restrictions were necessary "to keep our property values high" by HOA control. The penalty for violations could result in fines and ultimate foreclosure. (See WWW.HOADATA.ORG). A few knowledgeable residents, among them Martha Crockett and Wendy Laubach, organized weekly meetings to educate all about the threatened dangers. Willowbend residents decided overwhelmingly to retain a free Civic Club.

Annual records that were kept reflected that the non-HOA Willowbend property values increased above those values of comparable HOA subdivisions. Current property values and the taxes assessed confirm this fact.

Willowbend properties are protected by their respective sectional deed restrictions and the ordinances of the City of Houston. Written complaints are evaluated by a personal inspection and determination if there is a violation of the deed restrictions or of a city ordinance. A letter is written to the owner citing the specific violation and requesting compliance. Willowbend does not fine, file liens, or foreclose. Willowbend has been so fortunate to have board members who are committed to serve – not control their neighbors.

WILLOWBEND YARD OF THE MONTH

AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
4801 Briarbend	John & Maria Mannon	4509 Briarbend	Jennifer & Carlos Valdez
4827 Creekbend	Flavia Horth	4305 Creekbend	Cordy Wisenbaker
4618 Waycross	Kathleen Reardon	4522 Creekbend	Kristen Hunt
10610 Willowisp	Erik Nelson	10609 Greenwillow	Ann Crider & David King
10517 Willowgrove	Al & Kathy Mays	4830 Hazelton	Dr. John & Mrs. Lindsay McBride
4622 Willowbend	Kurtis & Lauren Lobaugh	4402 Willowbend	Rodrigo Jerez

Thank you to yard judges, De' Von and Shannon Deese

Willowbend Blvd. neighbors, please ask your landscaping crew NOT to park on the esplanade or block the turn-around areas. Additionally, please remind them NOT to blow grass trimmings and debris to the boulevard.

WILLOWBEND CIVIC CLUB SPECIAL MEETING

Sgt. Hicks and our very own Officer Thompson from HPD spoke to residents about the ongoing CATALYTIC CONVERTER thefts and how to protect ourselves.

On Tuesday, August 9 residents from Willowbend Civic Club and PCT 287 Civic Association gathered at Willow Meadows Baptist Church and listened to a presentation about these thefts and security in general

Here are a few takeaways from our meeting:

- Park your car INSIDE the garage at night.
- The most sought-out vehicles for catalytic converters (CC) are: Toyota Tundra, Prius, Sequoia, Tacoma, 4-Runner; Honda CRV, Element; and Diesel trucks. The newer the car model, the more valuable CC.
- For about \$30 you can have your CC sprayed painted and vin # etched at participating auto shops. This helps police if CC is stolen by making it harder to sell.
- Repairs for vehicles with stolen CC are extremely expensive, and there is a backorder on CC at this time.
- CC thefts are increasing each year, for example: in the Houston area in 2020 there were 1700 thefts reported, while in 2022 (as of early August) that number has climbed to 6000.

For more information about how to protect yourself, you can search on YOUTube "Preventing Catalytic Converter Thefts Houston Police" and you will see a video with Sgt. Hicks in which he gives tips—also see link here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTaS4lL0pWw&ab_channel=HoustonPolice

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WILLOW WATERHOLE GREENWAY

If you are a current or new Willowbend resident and not familiar with the Willow Waterhole Greenway, the greenspace is a 300-acre area located near our Willowbend neighborhood, at 5300 Dryad Street. The park is open daily from dawn until dusk.

Originally intended to hold retention ponds for flood relief, it has become an urban setting featuring six lakes, wetlands, prairies and forests which host an abundance of birds and fish. Park visitors can enjoy well-maintained walking, running and biking trails. Picnic areas throughout the park offer shaded picnic tables available on a first-come, first-served basis. The paved parking area has been completed and soon to come in 2022 is the Pier on Westbury Lake from which visitors will be able to launch a kayak, canoe, or drop a line in the water and do a bit of fishing. The MusicFest will be returning on Saturday, October 29, 2022. Once again, there will be live music, food, fun and Halloween activities, including a haunted house maze and trick-or-treat.

For more information about the Willow Waterhole Greenway Conservancy, please visit their website: www.willowwaterhole.org. You can also find a PowerPoint presentation on our website about their annual meeting recently held: https://willowbendcivicclub.org/pdf-docs/Annual_Meeting_July_2022.pdf

WILLOW WATERHOLE BIRD SURVEY

The Willow Waterhole conducts a bird survey every month year-round. Join this lively group and explore the wild side of our backyard. Meetings take place on the third Saturday of each month.

Meeting is at the Gathering Place, 5310 S. Willow Drive. October – March starting time: 8:00 AM. April – September starting time: 7:00 AM.

For more information about the Willow Waterhole please visit, www.willowwaterhole.org, or contact them at info@willowwaterhole.org.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Want to Pay Your Dues or Make a Donation?

Use this convenient QR code to pay!

The dues & patrol amount is \$130.00, which includes a \$5 service fee from PayPal.

Visit our website: www.WillowbendCivicClub.org for more information.

(WBCC fiscal year: June 1 – May 31)

 PayPal



Scan. Pay. Go.

Have ideas for us? Contact us at Info@WillowbendCivicClub.org, or visit the website, www.WillowbendCivicClub.org

We would like to build a service page for our neighborhood, Landscapers, Plumbers, Construction, Realtors, etc.
Want to advertise with us? Contact us at, WillowbendCivicClub@gmail.com for advertising fees.

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