



Willow Creek Estates News & Views

February 2014

Newsletter Editors: WCHOA Board

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Message from the Directors

It's been a hard winter for our beautiful trees, plants, and shrubbery. Many of the palm trees and oleander bushes appear to be in very bad shape. But, before you decide that you cannot live with ugly, put away the pruning shears, and resist removing the dead and damaged areas (unless a safety hazard). Garden experts state that those dead leaves act as insulation until warmer times return. They recommend that you wait for the new growth to push the damaged areas out. One tip on palm trees: when a new green frond pushes its way through and if the frond appears stable, the palm tree will probably survive. The best bet to avoid plant frostbite is to wrap up your plants—old sheets do a good job. Burlap works too if used to protect the base of the plant. For more information, go to a certified arborist or a plant specialist.

Spring Garage Sale – The really BIG news to help you breakout from the winter doldrums

Our WCHOA sponsored neighborhood garage sale is coming up soon (April 4&5), so now is the time to look around your residence for items that you don't need any more that could be of use to others. Be on the lookout at our website and our e-mail network for details as the dates near. We thank Mr. Gordon Love for volunteering to head this activity for our neighborhood. This event is a huge hit every year.

You Found My Pets Fast

I live on Great Oaks Drive in Willow Creek and have 2 very friendly and active black labs. When tempted with the opportunity to “explore”, they are off and running. If you have ever lost your pet, you can probably understand my subsequent panic that occurred not once, but twice in the past few months. On both occasions I contacted Carol Short and she posted a mass e-mail to Willow Creek residents. In less than 15 minutes, both times, I was contacted by fellow residents of “sightings” and Trooper & Bandit were found safe and sound. The WCHOA Lost & Found service really works!!! I would like to say “thank you” to all the Willow Creek people that helped to bring my boys home safely. This system works because our residents care..... Cherry Seaton

Annual Christmas Outdoor Lighting Display Contest Winners

Our judges reported that it was a lot of fun — along with some difficult decisions — to choose the recipients of this year's WCHOA Christmas Outdoor Lighting Display awards. A great big thank you goes out to Marianne, our photographer. It is wonderful to have photos of the winning displays to share. All winners received a \$10 gift card from Hays Co Bar-B-Q and a certificate for one-year WCHOA membership.

BEST RELIGIOUS – 1109 Tate Trail

Scott & Gwen Burton



BEST OVERALL – 1210 Mountain View

Richard & Nikki Skidmore



BEST CHILDREN'S – 2631 Rolling Oaks

Allan & Mary Jane Hamlin



BEST THEME - 1211 Mountain View

Michele & Brian Burleson



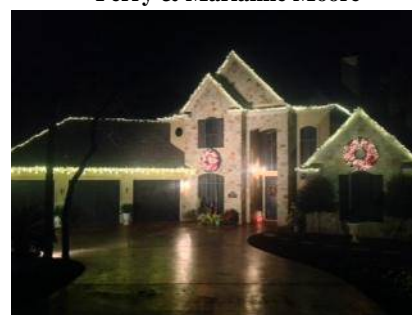
MOST ELEGANT – 1116 Stagecoach

Dot & Derrel Renfrow



Honorable Mention - 3010 Summit Ridge

Perry & Marianne Moore





Fine Custom Homes

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Additions

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Did You Know?

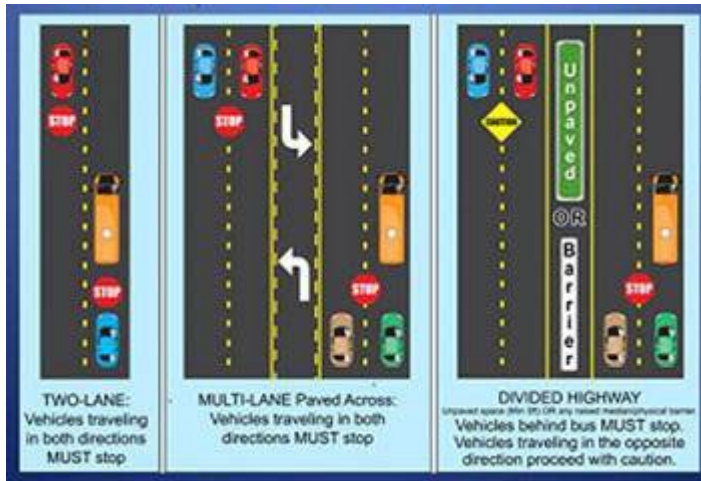
- Updates regarding lost and found pets are posted at the bottom of the original posting on the WCHOA website when we are notified that a pet has been found or returned home.
- WCHOA respects your privacy and does not share your personal information (email and/or phone number).
- In the City of San Marcos it is unlawful for an owner or occupant of a lot to cause or permit weeds, rubbish, brush or stagnant water to accumulate or remain on the lot.
- Open burning of brush, trash or debris within the city limits of San Marcos is prohibited **at all times**. Willow Creek residents living outside of the city limits must adhere to the Hays County burn bans.
- Both City of San Marcos Fire Department and the South Hays Fire Department respond to calls in Willow Creek.
- Hays County Sheriff's Department and the San Marcos Police Department respond to calls in Willow Creek.
- Fireworks (sale, possession, storage, discharge, or offer for sale of fireworks) are considered a public nuisance and it is unlawful to engage in any fireworks activity within the city limits or within 5,000 feet of the city limits. This means that fireworks are unlawful in any part of Willow Creek.
- It is a violation of city ordinances to park a vehicle in your yard, even if it is parked next to your driveway. If the HOA receives a complaint about a vehicle being improperly parked in your yard, this matter will be referred to the city.
- City and county ordinances do not allow unleashed dogs to run loose in any area of the neighborhood.
- You may contact any WCHOA director or officer (listed on the first page) if you have issues or questions.

Camera Enforcement on Passing School Buses Started February 17

Violators Caught by Cameras Face \$300 Civil Fines

Posted Date: 2/7/2014

San Marcos Police began mailing \$300 tickets to motorists who are caught on camera passing stopped school buses illegally.



STOP! It's the Law!
When Bus is Stopped,
Lights Flashing, Stop Arm Deployed

- **Two-lane road**—vehicles in BOTH DIRECTIONS must STOP
- **Multi-lane road:** vehicles in BOTH DIRECTIONS must STOP
- **Divided highway** with a center barrier: Vehicles BEHIND SCHOOL BUS must STOP; vehicles traveling in the opposite direction may proceed with CAUTION.

“People who drive by a school bus while it’s loading or unloading put children’s lives in danger, so we will issue tickets, not warnings,” said San Marcos Police Chief Howard Williams. “This is not new law that would necessitate educating the public. It is simply a new means of enforcement.”

On Feb. 17, the Automated School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program went into effect. San Marcos CISD school buses are being equipped with external cameras that record video of vehicles passing the bus when the lights are flashing and the automatic stop arm is deployed.

The videos will first be reviewed by Force Multiplier Solutions, LLC, the vendor responsible for the camera equipment, and then by the San Marcos Police Department.

The registered owner of any vehicle passing a stopped bus will be sent a notice of violation by SMPD.

Violations are civil offenses that may go before a hearing examiner and be appealed to the San Marcos Municipal Court.

The San Marcos City Council amended the City Code Jan. 7 to establish a civil penalty for passing a stopped school bus, which enables the Police to use cameras to enforce the existing criminal law against passing a stopped school bus.

Police observing violations will also stop and ticket drivers. Those directly ticketed by police face fines of \$200 to \$500. For more information, contact Chief Howard Williams at 512.753.2100.

Who are those guys?

Pedernales Electric Cooperative has retained Willbros T & D Services to perform maintenance on overhead distribution lines in our area. They’ll be removing vegetation, and any other type of obstruction around equipment, replacing underground cable, and transformers as needed. Questions should be referred to the PEC Engineering Department at 1-877-372-0391, press “4.”

Help Wanted

Want to get involved? We are always looking for neighbors interested in serving on the Board or a committee. Contact any of the directors listed on the first page to volunteer. Note that at our annual General Membership meeting in June, we elect directors and officers who will serve for the next twelve months. We encourage all our residents to give serious consideration to joining our Board to help us maintain and foster our especially pleasant community.



Payments *are now available*

Several of our residents have asked us to add online payments so we are pleased to report that you may now pay your WCHOA Supporting Member dues online. We have joined **PayPal** to offer Willow Creek residents the ability to pay their annual membership dues online with your credit card or bank debit card... you choose, and you will not be charged a fee for this new service. Plus you are not required to have a **PayPal** account. As you probably know, when you use **PayPal** our HOA will not have access to nor will we store any of your personal financial information on our site.

REMEMBER: 2014 HOA DUES ARE PAYABLE IN JANUARY but we will accept your payment any time during the year. This new PayPal service is gaining popularity. It's easy! Just go to the WCHOA website, select "**Pay Dues Online,**" and pay your annual membership dues or make a donation to WCHOA. No need to write a check, address an envelope, find a postage stamp, and then remember to mail it. If you haven't paid yet, we will still be glad to get your payment.

Limited Newsletter Advertising Space Available

Preference may be given to
Willow Creek Residents

Email wchoa99@gmail.com for information

Newsletter advertisements should not be construed as a WCHOA endorsement of products or services.



Mark your calendars

Our next big event is the spring GARAGE SALE. Detailed information will be posted on the WCHOA website in early March.

- April 4-5, 2014 Annual WCHOA Spring Garage Sale
- May 18, 2014 Tentative Date for WCHOA Board Meeting @ SM Police Department
- June 1, 2014 Annual Membership Meeting
- October 7, 2014 Neighborhood Night Out

Staying in the Loop: Your eMail Address is the Key

You want to know what's going on in the neighborhood and what your Homeowners Association is up to. The best way to do that is to share your email address with us. That'll help us keep you in the loop – in real time – about what's going on in Willow Creek. We use your e-mail address to distribute the Newsletter and to put out alerts you need to know about such as vandalism, scam artists, thefts, lost or found pets, or other timely information. We only use your e-mail address to keep you hooked in to Willow Creek information. We don't sell it. We don't share it. So, please, send us a quick message from the email account you'd like us to use to contact you, and we'll add you to the list. More than one email address? No problem. We'll be happy to make sure all of them are covered. Carol Short, our Treasurer, would love to hear from you. You can reach her at wchoa99@gmail.com. Stay in touch!