

# *Willow Creek Estates News and Views*

## *November 2011*

**<http://willowcreekestatetx.com>**

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### **Greetings**

The neighborhood celebrated another outstanding National Night Out. I want to thank those that were involved in putting it together. The group did an outstanding job. I also appreciate the businesses that donated gift certificates for door prizes, and we want to thank Dick Burdick for the use of the parking lot.

We are looking forward to Christmas. Again we will give out prizes for the decorating contest. So get involved. We still need donations for completing the signs in our subdivision. We would like to replace the one at Reimer and complete a new sign on Great Oaks.

If you're not a member you need to join, and be a part of the neighborhood that you live in. We need to work together to keep it a safe environment for all to enjoy. For the past 1 ½ years the board has been very active and have completed several projects. If you have any suggestions, please contact any board member.

I would also like to ask everyone to follow the restrictions that are set out in the deed restrictions for your area. If you do not have a copy of the deed restrictions, they can be found on the website. Or contact a board member for assistance.

--- Jeff Sones, President

### **Neighborhood Night Out 2011**

Thanks for coming to the National Night Out event held at Dick's Classic Garage on October 4<sup>th</sup>! The event was a rousing success with estimates of 135 to 150 people in attendance, including representatives from the San Marcos Police and Fire departments, the Hays County Sheriff's department, the Constable, local political office candidates, lots of Willow Creek residents, and even local musicians Paula Stiles and Stan Harlan (thanks guys!). There were sno-cones for the kids, as well as soft drinks, hot dogs, cookies and popcorn for all. Many thanks to Grande Communications for donating the soft drinks and snacks!

Our neighbors obviously enjoyed the chance to get out and meet one another, and to build on existing friendships. National Night Out is an annual event that encourages neighborhoods to stage block parties for this purpose and to focus on neighbors looking after each other to fight possible crime in their areas. There is a Neighborhood Watch Program in Willow Creek and this event is planned and organized by that group under the auspices of the WCHOA. Our development is broken up into many smaller "blocks" and each has a block captain to help get the word out if there is a concern for the group, or to bring any concerns to the attention of law enforcement or the Neighborhood Association. Check the WCHOA website if you need to know who your block captain is and to find out more about the Neighborhood Watch Program!

A great time was had by all! Special thanks go to the Willow Creek Home Owners' Association for its support, Dick's Classic Garage for letting us hold the event there (for the third year now!) and the volunteers that worked to bring things together: Kathleen Dial, Bud and June (aka the Hot Dog Lady) Holland, Mellie Nicholas, Carol Short, Lee & Linda Porterfield, Bob Galinger, Anna Farr, Kim Davis, and Bob & Jean Mooney. A special thanks to the many local businesses for their generosity in donating gift certificates and merchandise for the door prizes!!! Please utilize the businesses that support your community! Donations were received by: Grande Communications - Blue Sky Mortgage - Panhandler's Pizza - McCoy's Lumber and Hardware - Texas Road House - Bill & Brenda Damron, realtors - Luke Webster Auto Repair - Conley Car Wash and Oil Change Center - Frost Bank - Dick's Classic Garage - Other donations were received from: Kathleen Dial, Christine Hardy, Bob & Jean Mooney, and Lee & Linda Porterfield.

Again, thanks to all that attended and contributed to this year's event. If you didn't make it this year, we hope you make it to next year's Neighborhood Night Out.

### **Speeding in the Neighborhood**

I personally think we have a lot to be thankful for in Willow Creek...the beautiful woods, the serenity of the large lots and graceful deer, and especially being away from crowds and congestion.

On the other hand, spoiling and breaking up this peacefulness seems to be increasing numbers of cars moving thru the neighborhood that are going faster and faster. The posted speed limits are 35, sometimes 30 and in a few cases 25 mph....rarely does anyone seem to be moving less than 45. On top of that, our "STOP" signs are treated as if they say "YIELD" with cars rolling through, turning, and speeding away.

Why do we need to endanger others in our haste? What's it going to take to get everyone to slow down? Won't our business wait a minute or two? Do we need more "4 Way Stop Signs" or even speed bumps for safety? Do we need to invite the police force to control this matter? Finally, do we need to kill deer and send ourselves to the emergency room and our cars to the body shop....or worse, do we need to hit and injure a jogger or someone walking their pet? What's it going to take? Think. Relax.

Enjoy the beautiful surroundings and obey the speed limits...they equally apply to everyone.

### **Outdoor Christmas Display Contest**

Many of our members create beautiful outdoor lighting displays during the Christmas season which enhance our celebration of this special time. Your WCHOA Board will be judging the displays and recognizing those which are considered the best efforts in the following categories:

- Best Overall Display
- Best Theme
- Best Children's Theme
- Best Religious Display
- Most Elegant Display

Judging will be done during the week beginning December 19<sup>th</sup> – final decisions will be done by December 24<sup>th</sup> and the lucky recipients will be notified. The list of winners will also be published on our website. Prizes in past years were gift certificates from local businesses.

## COMPARE OUR CD RATES TO YOUR CURRENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND LET US SPOIL YOU.



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THE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD (APY) AS ADVERTISED IS EFFECTIVE AS OF NOVEMBER 16, 2011. RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO ACCOUNT OPENING. YOU RECEIVE THE APY IN EFFECT ON THE DAY YOUR ACCOUNT IS OPENED. ACCOUNTS ARE DEEMED OPEN UPON RECEIPT OF FUNDS. MINIMUM OPENING DEPOSIT OF \$1,000 REQUIRED. PENALTIES MAY APPLY TO EARLY WITHDRAWALS AND MAY REDUCE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT EARNINGS.



# Tom Taber, GMB



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## **Inviting Your Dreams for the Future**

What is your Dream San Marcos?

For the past couple of months the City of San Marcos staff has been listening intently to the community's answer to that question as a prelude to updating our long-term Comprehensive Plan.

Since August, we have met with dozens of community groups, small and large, from neighborhoods to civic clubs, high school and university students, retirees, businesses and institutions. Our conversations are aimed at asking a few questions and listening closely to the answers from our citizens.

We also have used a unique online resource on the City website ([www.sanmarcostx.gov/ideas](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/ideas)) called "IdeaScale." You can register online, submit your ideas, and vote other ideas up or down. The most popular ideas rise to the top. I encourage you to get online and participate in this process. It's interesting and enlightening to see what views our community members have for the future.

The "visioning" step in this Comprehensive Master Plan will culminate on October 15 at the Arts and Eco Fest at the courthouse square. In addition to enjoying the Farmers Market, live music, and the festival, you will be able to visit the Dream San Marcos booths and further express your ideas.

In the coming months we will meet with the major institutions in San Marcos—Texas State University, San Marcos CISD and Hays County to talk about our common goals and vision for San Marcos. We'll explore jobs, education, infrastructure, growth, transportation, downtown and what our boundaries might be in the future.

These discussions will move into policy development continuing in concert with you and other citizens that will help us shape our 10 year Comprehensive Plan, which guides development, infrastructure, zoning and the growth of San Marcos.

Please join us throughout this journey!

By Jim Nuse, City Manager



## Hays County Commissioner Will Conley, Pct. 3 Campaign Kick-Off Celebration

Dear Friends,

You are warmly invited to join the Conley family for a campaign kick-off celebration at The Salt Lick's Thurman Pavilion on December 8<sup>th</sup>. It will be a festive evening with great food and live music. There will even be a visit from Santa!

I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve Hays County for the past seven years. We have made great strides in improving our roads and public safety, safeguarding our quality of life, and preparing for the future in a fiscally responsible way. I ask for your support in the 2012 Republican Primary to continue the good work that we have started.

On behalf of Erin and I, and our children, Eve and Abram, we look forward to seeing you and your family at the Kick-Off on December 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 9:00 PM. For more information, please visit [www.conleykickoff.com](http://www.conleykickoff.com) or call me at 512-738-1079.

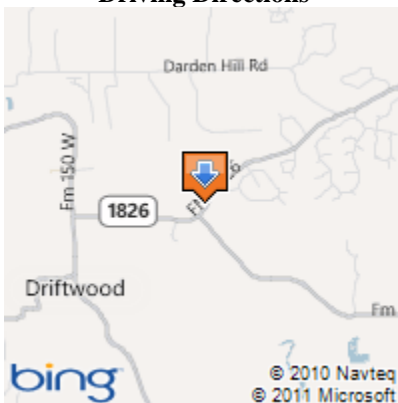
Sincerely,

Will Conley  
Hays County Commissioner Pct. 3

Please RSVP to: [willconley@conleykickoff.com](mailto:willconley@conleykickoff.com)

**Where:** Thurman Pavilion, the Salt Lick    **When:** Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 9:00PM  
17900 FM 1826  
Driftwood, Texas 78619

### Driving Directions



**Pd. Political Ad paid by the Re-Elect County Commissioner Will Conley Pct. 3 Campaign**





**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PUBLIC  
WORKSHOP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
HAYS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1st 2011  
From 4:30 TO 7:30 PM**

**SAN MARCOS ACTIVITY CENTER  
501 E. HOPKINS, SAN MARCOS, TX**

The workshop will be an open house format so, please come at your convenience. Attendees will be able to visit one-on-one with County representatives and the project team, participate in a survey, and use maps to locate areas of concern in Hays County. At this workshop, information will be presented at different stations on previous planning efforts, the planning process, and the need for a transportation plan. The team will be collecting input on all aspects of the plan.

[www.co.hays.tx.us/transportationplan](http://www.co.hays.tx.us/transportationplan)

For more information contact:

Cathy Howell

512-533-9100 ext.10

[chowell@cdandp.com](mailto:chowell@cdandp.com)

### **WCHOA Reminders**

- WCHOA dues will increase to \$20 per year on January 1, 2012.
  - Other WCHOA Annual Events:
    - Spring Neighborhood Clean-Up – date to be announced by the City.
    - The first Saturday in April is the Neighborhood Garage Sale.
    - The first Sunday in June is the Annual General Membership Meeting.
  - It is a violation of city code to park vehicles in the yard.
  - It is both a city and county violation to allow unleashed dogs to run loose in the neighborhood.
  - Easements on all lots should be kept cut and debris removed.
  - Contact any HOA director or officer (list on page 1) if you have issues or questions.
  - Please be careful when driving through our community.....keep your speed at 30 mph or less and always come to a complete stop at all our stop signs. You may report speeding or reckless drivers to the Hays County Sheriff Department or the San Marcos Police Department. Keep in mind that many of our residents (including youngsters and senior citizens) use our roads every day for walking, jogging, and bike riding. Reckless driving endangers everyone.
- Please be safe and not sorry.

### **Use Caution**

A quick reminder to be cautious when strangers come calling at your door uninvited claiming to be vendors, solicitors, salesmen, or whatever. Exercise caution with a healthy dose of skepticism to protect yourself and your wallet. Know exactly what you are buying or what "cause" you are asked to financially aid. Well organized canvassers, possibly of dubious intent, sometimes saturate an area with their efforts one day and are long gone the next. Be wary of someone claiming to need help. Make a telephone call for them or retrieve an item from inside your home, but have them wait outside (with your doors locked). Check your doors and windows locks after you've had repairmen or delivery men in your home. Even though we live in relatively secure community, some due diligence on our part is always smart.

## **From the Treasurer's Corner**

A strong financial position is based on strong membership numbers. And for the year that ended on May 31, 2011, the Association had 208 paid members – a little over 43 percent of eligible households. Of course, there were some changes, based on new neighbors moving in and some old friends relocating, but even in the face of a difficult economy, community members recognized the advantage of joining together to help build an even better Willow Creek. Our goal is to have at least half of our residents being active members of the WCHOA and right now we have 152 paid members for the current year.

Dues for the current year are still only \$15 per household if paid before December 31, 2011. After the end of the year, the dues will increase to \$20. Membership is a real bargain in terms of value as we work to provide more services and activities for residents and families. It is okay to pay ahead. You may pay dues for future years at the current \$15 rate until the rate increase goes into effect on January 1, 2012.

The Board feels that we need to raise approximately \$3,500 in matching funds in order to begin the construction of the two additional entrance signs (on Reimer at Philo Street and on Great Oaks Drive near the water tower). To date we have approximately one-fourth of the matching dollars needed to begin construction. A little math tells us that just getting 50 donations of \$50 (or 100 donations of \$25 or 225 donations of only \$10) would get us to our goal. **COME ON FOLKS – WE CAN DO IT.** Or are we going to have to stand out at the corner with a bucket and solicit donations as you come into the subdivision? Donations for the sign fund, in any amount, should be sent to:

WCHOA Treasurer  
2442 Great Oaks Dr  
San Marcos, TX 78666-5034

We want to thank our residents who have already made donations to the sign fund and also to the 152 residents who have paid their current year HOA dues. If an invoice is NOT included with this newsletter, you have paid your dues for the current year. And, on that same note...if there is an invoice included with this newsletter, your annual dues should be paid at this time.

## **Treasurer's Report, June 1 – October 31, 2011**

<b><u>Income</u></b>		<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>	
Dues Collected	\$1770.00	Annual Meeting	\$ 70.77
Sign Fund Donations	775.00	Newsletter Printing	126.36
Interest Earned	10.81	Postage	108.43
Website Ads	425.00	Bank Checks/Deposit Slips	76.86
	\$2980.81	Legal	47.15
		Neighborhood Night Out	276.87
		Fed Tax Exempt Application	400.00
			\$1106.44

## **Neighborhood Interest Groups**

Anna Farr has volunteered to serve as coordinator for our neighborhood interest groups. Sign up for these groups began at our National Night Out event in October. These are the groups that are being organized at this time:

- Sheila Duffy at 713-412-8758 agreed to host first supper club. We will be trying to set up a first date for an informal supper and a time to organize. If you are interested, please contact Sheila or me: [af02@txstate.edu](mailto:af02@txstate.edu). We are thinking it will be informal pot luck type event for couples.
- John Burke offered to host the first Spanish practice group. We are hoping that Anthony Romero will help facilitate that group. Please call John or email me if you wish to be included in this group.
- Anthony Romero wanted to check for interest in Mexican dominoes. He said he would be glad to help people learn about the game and host the first group. So please contact one of us if you are interested in a fun game with fun people in our neighborhood. Anthony's # is 512-667-3769 or me at 392-9840.
- Marilyn Gish is willing to host the first bridge group. She is interested in hearing from people who would like to participate about preferred dates and times of day. If you are interested, please call or email Marilyn Gish at 512-878-0752 or [minagish@aol.com](mailto:minagish@aol.com).
- Marianne Moore is interested in hosting first informal coffee groups. Please let one of us know with your preferred time. She questioned whether to have it on a week day or on a Saturday--if working people would be interested in Saturday. Please call or email Marianne or me- [marimoore2001@yahoo.com](mailto:marimoore2001@yahoo.com) or [af02@txstate.edu](mailto:af02@txstate.edu).
- Tanya Turley is working on a date in the evening to do handwork, sewing, scrapbooking group. Please call Tanya (512-667-7637) or me (392-9840) if you are interested.
- Sherry Burke is interested in starting a poker group. She said she would help people learn the game. Her number is 512-667-6522.
- Jerry and Anna Farr will be glad to host the first book club. It will be in the evening and be a "couples" event. We will try to have the first meeting in December. If you are interested, please call 512-392-9840 or email [af02@txstate.edu](mailto:af02@txstate.edu).

If you have any interest in any of these groups, please give it a try and go to an organizational meeting to see how you would like it. If you would like to suggest or start other groups, let us know. Thank you.