

# ***Willow Creek News & Views***

**Fall 2016**

A publication of



***WCHOA ~ Willow Creek Homeowners Association, Inc.***

***"Deed Restricted Single-Family Neighborhood" — [www.wchoatx.com](http://www.wchoatx.com)***

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### **President's Message:**

Even though the weather still says summer — the calendar tells us fall is about to take center stage.

That's good news, because it means that National Night Out is just around the corner — fun, food, cold drinks, and information about our neighborhood and our community. Join us to meet and greet those who care about you and care about the community we share.

We're planning on a busy event. San Marcos city officials and staff will be stopping by, including our firefighters, police, first responders, and others, including a few surprise guests.

They'll be letting us know what's happening and looking for input from us, as well. And there will be more door prizes than ever — from our local merchants and from some of our neighbors. As always, prizes include some excellent wines from Hill Country vineyards

The evening's events kick off 6 pm on Tuesday, October 4. We'll be at Dick's Classic Garage Car Museum parking lot, at the corner of Stagecoach Trail at Hunter Road. And we'll be going strong until dark, about 8 pm.

This popular and well-attended annual event is free and supported by your annual dues of \$20. And it's a great opportunity to catch up if you haven't paid your dues yet. Your financial support is critical to our work of making sure our neighborhood remains the best it can be.

We'll be posting additional information about National Night Out on our website. And we'll be looking forward to seeing you there.

As we've been doing a little clean-up work on our entry signs (with the recent rain, they've picked up a bit of mildew) and keeping the grass trimmed around them, we've also picked up a lot more trash than we expected. Some was carried there by the wind, but some looks like it's been tossed out of car windows — glass bottles, plastic beverage and fast-food containers, empty cigarette packs, and more. These signs



are the gateways to our neighborhood and the better they look, the better Willow Creek Estates looks. If you'd like to volunteer to help in this effort, please send us an email at [wchoa99@gmail.com](mailto:wchoa99@gmail.com).

The deer, the weather, and time have also taken a toll on some of the signs' solar spotlights, and we're replacing broken ones to keep things bright. Your annual dues make that possible.

Our neighborhood is precious to us and is a ***Deed Restricted Single-Family Neighborhood***. All owners — whether they've paid dues or not — are members of the Willow Creek Homeowners Association and all properties must adhere to their respective deed restrictions and covenants. Most appreciate the restrictions since this helps maintain and increase the value of our properties. Uncluttered driveways, keeping storage items in enclosed areas, managing trash receptacles, and maintaining attractive fences, trimmed lawns, shrubs and trees, don't take a lot of work, but make a really big difference.

We are especially gifted to have many longer term residents whose investment, over time, has helped to define the look and feel of our community. Some residents may spend the summer in other locations but make the trek back to Willow Creek Estates as soon as the weather cools down. We welcome them back and we look forward to working with them – and with all of our neighbors – to keep Willow Creek the best place to live in San Marcos!

— Becky Dobbins, President

### **Volunteers Needed:**

We are always looking for help to plan and staff our events. Just use the link to our website and submit your information on the [WCHOA Volunteer Form](#) or send us an email at [wchoa99@gmail.com](mailto:wchoa99@gmail.com). Tell us what you are interested in and we will welcome your assistance.



<http://www.treshermanasrestaurant.com>

### **Deer Accidents:**

Recently, after turning onto Stagecoach Trail from Leslie Lane early on a sunny afternoon, one of our officers stopped short after seeing a still-spotted fawn, bleeding from its mouth, with trauma marks on its side, lying on the side of the road. The calf was still alive but obviously in great pain. It struggled to move after being approached and, with tremendous difficulty, got to its feet, and staggered into a nearby stand of trees, where it again fell to the ground.

The San Marcos Animal Control office was immediately called and, in just a few minutes, they were at the scene and picked up the injured deer. We don't know how the encounter ultimately ended, but we're confident that it was far more humane than if the deer had been ignored and left to bleed painfully to death on the side of the road.

We recognize that deer and automobiles can be a very hazardous mix, and sharing our streets with these animals – and with unrestrained cats and dogs, as well – can result in tragedy. But until there is a

workable solution to the deer situation, we have to exercise extreme caution.

We know it's hard to avoid wild and stray animals, since they often leap out directly in front of our vehicles. As we know all too well, this kind of accident is not uncommon. And what should be just as common is doing the right thing when an unfortunate accident does occur.



That means not leaving an injured animal to die in pain. It means calling Animal Control if you have been in an accident involving an animal or see an injured animal in or near the road. (Reporting can also be helpful if you have to file an insurance claim.)

Please put Animal Control on your speed dial. Within the City of San Marcos, the number is 512-805-2650. County residents can call 512-393-7779.

And please drive safely – especially now, as daylight grows shorter – and the chances for accidents increase. And be responsible, do the right thing and report it.

### **Reminders—Let's Keep Our Neighborhood Beautiful and Safe:**

- Now that we've had good rains, it is time to cut the grass on those easements. Easements on all lots should be kept cut and debris removed. Vacant lots should be kept cleared back at least 10 feet. And please do not dump the grass on the street when you are done.
- Obey the speed limit – 30 mph. We have lots of walkers and joggers and no sidewalks.
- Keep your pets on a leash or confined. Do not allow them to run loose in the neighborhood.
- Bring in your trash and recycling bins after trash pickup.
- Remove your garage sale and lost pet signs after a few days.
- Park on your driveway, not on front and side yards.

### **SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS:**

Want to share some of your photos? We would like to have some new photos to display on our website. Send your favorite neighborhood photos (pool, family, pets, flowers, deer, etc.) to us at [wchoa99@gmail.com](mailto:wchoa99@gmail.com). We'd especially appreciate some "before and after" photos. Many of you have done some wonderful work transforming your yards and other areas of your homes. Show us!

### **Some Important Contact Numbers:**

- Drainage problem? Call 512-393-8036
- Crime Stoppers? Call 512-353-TIPS
- Bulky Waste? Call 1-800-375-8375

### **Lost Dogs and Cats:**

We're happy to report that the usual cast of lost and found animals is normal – but with fewer unfortunate incidents.

We appreciate our neighbors helping to keep their critters contained and on leashes as appropriate. (Cats, according to conventional wisdom, are a bit “independent.” So if they're haltered, it makes them much easier to “capture” and to contain if they decide to go exploring beyond the range of your property.)

As our pets age, please remember that diminished vision and hearing make it harder to keep them controlled. If they wander away and then forget how to get home – particularly if there's a storm that washes away their scent markers.

Keeping all pets housebound all the time is not realistic. So if pets do have outside privileges, it's our responsibility, both as pet owners and good neighbors, to make sure we control the limits of their turf.

Generally, outside pets have shorter lifespans than those who stay indoors. There's often the trade-off of happier critters versus keeping them safely tucked inside. But in acknowledging the tradeoff, it's the owner's job to manage the risks and make sure the outside pet is secure.

And if you've been considering the satisfactions of joining the ranks of pet owners, one of the best ways to do that is by adopting through the San Marcos Regional Animal Shelter and Adoption Center. If you're interested, you can call the shelter at 512-805-2650 or visit the [website](#) for more information. Saving a rescue animal or providing a foster home can be a real treat – and it's a great way to help build a better community.

### **Code SMTX:**

Yes, it is moving forward! A two-year effort is about to culminate in a new city code for San Marcos. We appreciate all of you who have filled in a survey and have expressed your thoughts. Several have expressed strong thoughts and ideas about keeping this beautiful place beautiful—the balance of growth, density, traffic, and other issues remain a top priority. After all, who wants to be Austin?

The flood plain issues continue to be a grave concern for many, and several of you have pushed for a 200-year flood plain plan—especially since the damage to several neighborhood from last year's floods did not respect the 100-year flood plain plan. Some areas (even in Willow Creek) barely escaped devastation last year.

We need to think in the long term for all of us. Just because we might escape the direct effects of flooding, our water runoff may endanger another neighborhood. So, please join in on the conversation about how to protect and preserve our neighborhoods' futures. Responsible growth is important—we do not want to cause devastation at the expense of other neighborhoods or homes.

Is anything 100% certain when it comes to flooding? No. But think 200 years and it might prevent your lot flooding—even if you are 39 feet above the river!



### **Keep the Communication Going:**

City of San Marcos personnel, including City Manager Jared Miller and Fire Marshall Kenneth Bell, and Hays County Commissioner Will Conley continue to work closely with all of us to build the environment we all wish to achieve. It's important that their hard work and diligence reflect our goals for our neighborhood. They are interested in what we have to say, so it's incumbent on us to keep the conversation going. It really does make a difference. We are very fortunate that the city and county work together to resolve issues that affect us. We've seen our officials in action and routinely observe both city and county responders answering our emergency – and routine – calls and requests

### **Did You Know?**

Precinct 315, which includes the Willow Creek Estates subdivision, always has the largest voter turnout percentage in San Marcos. Let's keep this tradition going.





<http://www.treshermanasrestaurant.com/catering>

### **Staying in the Loop: Your E-mail 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, and our informational updates. We only use your email address to keep you hooked into Willow Creek information. We never sell 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](mailto:wchoa99@gmail.com). Stay in touch!***

### **Speeding in the Neighborhood:**

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 – with numerous cars moving faster and faster through the neighborhood.



The posted speed limits are 30 mph. But some days, it can seem that very few of them are moving less than 40 to 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 Four-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? Even worse, do we need to hit and injure a jogger or folks walking their pets? What's it going to take?

Think. Relax. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings and obey the speed limits . . . they apply equally to everyone. Some folks are even posting pictures of speeders on Facebook. Let's do our best to make that unnecessary – by observing posted speed limits and coming to a full stop at Stop signs.

### **Emergency Warning System:**

Over the past several years, we've seen our share of emergencies. And as we've learned, the more information we have, and the sooner we have it, the better prepared we'll be to deal with future emergencies.

To help you do that, WarnCentralTexas lets you register to get emergency warnings that affect our area and our neighborhood. And you can receive those warnings by text, email, or phone. Registering with WarnCentralTexas allows local emergency personnel to directly contact you during a disaster or public safety event, warning or alerting you to dangerous conditions and situations as events unfold. They can quickly give specific directions that affect your neighborhood such as evacuation orders and directions to shelters.

You can register online, by clicking right [here](#). If you can't register on the website, you can also register by calling 866-939-0911. Either way, this is a great opportunity to make sure you family have the best information possible in the event of an emergency.

### **Voting Information:**

- Tuesday, October 11 – Last day to register to vote in the November 8 general election
- Early voting runs from October 24 – November 4
- Link to [Hays County Early Voting](#) for Locations and Times