

Willow Creek News & Views

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A publication of



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Message from Our WCHOA President:

National Night Out is almost here! Tuesday, October 1st is the date. National Night Out will be celebrated in the parking lot of the former Dick's Car Museum. It starts at 5:30 p.m. and will end at 7:30 p.m. Grilled hot dogs, chips, cookies and refreshments will be provided. We have door prizes too! This event is a great way to acquaint yourselves with your neighbors and to pay your \$20 dues (if you haven't already paid). This event is hosted by your HOA officers and volunteers so please attend! Young people are welcome too. **Please attend!**



The dog days of summer were exactly as promised—hot hot hot. Many of us lost more than a few plants even though we watered them faithfully. Full sun plants often need partial shade when the heat comes our way. Yes, we've had hotter August/September months and cooler ones—this one is in the middle range. Please continue to watch your "remaining" plants carefully. We definitely don't want to lose any more plants, shrubs or trees.

We've received complaints about a few folks feeding the deer corn. Herds of deer "camp out" in areas close to those who feed them. BUT deer are considered a nuisance by those neighbors who do not want them in their own yards. Deer are not pets and often contaminate areas with deer droppings and infect yards with deer ticks. NOTE: Feeding the deer means they will be attacked by some of the wilder critters—it's a guaranteed, painful death. The coyotes are aggressive in attacking the smaller fawns and younger deer. Both bobcats and coyotes feast on the deer (especially those fattened up with deer candy—also known as corn.) Your neighbors will appreciate not having a dying fawn (half-eaten) in their yards. It's very distressing to witness!

Our summer months have been popular for travel—many of you have headed for the coast, Alaska, and Italy. The early fall (when the weather is cooler) is ideal for travel too. We've had some unusual situations in the neighborhood so be sure to install security measures to protect your property in your absence. Have a neighbor pick up your mail and any papers which may be put on

your yard. Make your home look lived in—not abandoned. Install security cameras if possible. Some residents rely on security “alarm” systems too. Leaving a locked vehicle in the driveway may help!

Some basic advice: do not allow anyone access to your home that you do not know. Don’t post on FB that you are going on vacation. Post your vacation photos AFTER your return. Remember the old phrase: loose lips sink ships? Keep that in mind about your personal business. We live in a sharing society about what we do and when we do it. And while social media is fun—it can cause you much distress. So please be careful.

One final note--Please respect your neighbor’s privacy by not accessing someone else’s property without specific permission. We’ve had some neighbors’ walk through others’ properties in their daily walks “just because.” This will not end well since trespassing may cause the local police or Sheriff to intercede on the property owners’ behalf. In addition, stay off the vacant lots unless you have permission—every vacant lot is owned by someone and many of the vacant lots are used as privacy areas. Thank you for your courtesy.

Shop and Do Business Locally:

Our local businesses need your support. The more you do business locally, the more you build strong relationships among community members. As you know we have businesses who use our HOA website to advertise. These local business partners are highly responsive when contacted. Using the services of those who advertise with us means even more responsive services. It’s a positive relationship built upon success after success. If you know of a great local business, then encourage them to advertise with us so we can spread the word so even more residents will use another local business.

Traffic Patterns:

You’ve probably noticed how intense the traffic has become on Wonder World and Hunter Rd/Hopkins. Wonder World has become a major “thruway” for the Wimberley and Blanco areas. This has accelerated their growth due to the “easy access to I-35.” Our own growth has also increased with the additional building around Willow Creek Estates, plus the two new neighborhoods on Wonder World. Please drive carefully since most of the traffic on Wonder World appears to use this major “thruway” as a high speed “freeway.” In addition, traffic is often backed up from the CVS intersection past I-35 to the medical center. Impatient drivers, who have driven at high speeds for several miles have to make sudden adjustments at the first light at Hunter/Hopkins. These drivers become cranky very quickly since speeds become very slow for a couple of miles. Running red lights seems to be the norm, so please be careful that you don’t get “rear-ended” or become a victim of a head-on collision.



WCHOA Keeping Up With The Times...Finally!

[Check Out Our New Website!](#)

We have totally re-designed the website and have a beautiful interactive map of the Willow Creek area created specifically for us. You can see all sections of Willow Creek with each being a separate color and when hovering over an area you can see the section number and click



on the link to view the restrictions and covenants for that area. Additionally, we have made it much easier to find information, submit data and/or request information from us. Also included are links to services along with current and historical information about WCHOA. We have also included a section specifically designed for residents of the mandatory HOA's that are located within Willow Creek Estates. This includes *The Ridge II HOA*, *The Ridge HOA* and information on *The Ridge at Stonecliff* since they must drive through Willow Creek to access their homes. The residents of *The Ridge II HOA* and *The Ridge HOA* are located within the boundaries of both WCHOA and their mandatory HOA.

Our beautiful new website was designed with an emphasis on the Texas Hill County and created by Corridor News, a local online media source, which provides local news for the Hays County area without requiring a subscription. In addition to keeping up with the local news, the

news organization has experience with website development and has helped the Willow Creek HOA with minor website updates and maintenance since 2017.



In June, Melissa Jewett, Publisher/Founder, and Terra Rivers, Managing Editor agreed to help our HOA build and update its website with a new modern and functional feel. They have recently built websites for several other area businesses. SMCorridorNews.com is in the process of designing a new website for themselves.

We are very appreciative that Melissa, a current Willow Creek resident and former WCHOA board member, stepped forward to assist in coordinating this long overdue project. We truly have a beautiful new and useful website. Without Melissa's knowledge of Willow Creek and her ability to create a website to meet our needs, this redesign would never have happened. A special thank you goes to Melissa and her staff. By the way, while Melissa was serving on the WCHOA board, she was the driving force in getting our two entrance walls built on Stagecoach and Reimer.

Our Local Library Resources/Classes:

Our local library is an outstanding resource for our community. They have a large number of computers available for use—both for cardholders and non-cardholders. Want to read a great magazine? They have an amazing hard copy collection. Don't want to drive to the library? You can

access magazines, eBooks, audiobooks, and more through their multiple digital and online access points. “Flipster” is available through the eLibrary menu: feel free to read the magazine immediately or download it to your device. Want to access special articles? This is available through eLibrary “TexShare.” Want to borrow an eBook or an audiobook? There are apps for your computer or mobile device. These apps are design library has set-up a subscription, compliments of the San Marcos Library. Want to learn a new language? Over 70 world languages are available, courtesy of the library, through access to Mango Languages. Mango “prepares learners for realistic conversations” and helps you improve everyday communication skills. This is an amazing resource. In addition to the above, the library has free classes on many subjects. They publish a monthly schedule at

<http://sanmarcostx.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=0&Keywords=&startDate=&enddate=>. Make use of this fabulous resource.

Don’t Fall Victim to Scams!

Want to outsmart the scammers? As many as 145 million Americans have their identify stolen each year according to the Federal Trade Commission. Fraud and financial abuse schemes targeting the elderly are growing problems that cost victims about \$2.9 billion annually, according to the Department of Justice. Shockingly, nearly 90% of the abusers are people who the victim trusts. The grandparent scam is on the rise. This one is really annoying since the caller assumes the identity of a grandchild and hits up the grandparent for money using the words: “please don’t tell Mon or Dad; I goofed up and need your help.”

Sweetheart scams target the lonely and clean out bank accounts as fast as the conversation happens. Do you enter contests? Or get calls asking you to contact a 1-800 number to claim a prize? Be very wary of those. (Note that the Publishers Clearing House sweepstakes is real—and has awarded many cash prizes over the years.) Protect your personal information, be extra cautious online and protect your credit information. (Thanks to Edward Jones Firm of Kyle TX for this updated information).

One last word of caution: your debit or credit card can be hacked when you least expect it. Several of the card providers will notify you immediately about purchases involving “new” locations or “larger” purchases. Pay attention to these notifications and respond promptly. American Express and Wells Fargo are especially diligent because you can set up multiple notification methods and all will be used. Hackers usually try two approaches—small transactions to avoid being flagged or several quick, large transactions before the card is cancelled.

Want to Become a Volunteer?

Senior Corps is a great way to connect you with others that need you the most. www.nationalservice.gov offers a Grandparent Program and a Senior Companion Program. Volunteers, especially Foster grandparents are needed everywhere! These two programs are just a sample of the many opportunities available. Looking for something else? The city has a list of opportunities at <http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/1520/Volunteer>.





WCHOA

Nat'l Night Out

Tuesday, Oct 1st

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Dick's Classic Car Garage Parking Lot

Bring the Family

Food & Drinks Provided

Bring your Lawn Chairs
(if you need to sit)

Meet Your Neighbors

Visit With Friends

And.....



Door Prizes

NOTE: Rain Date is Thursday, Oct. 3