

December 2006 General Meeting

The next General Meeting of the Willow Meadows Civic Club will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 12, in the Chapel at the Willow Meadows Baptist Church. Please join your neighbors at this meeting!

Willow Meadows News

www.WillowMeadows.Org



**December
2006**

From The President

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I would like to take this time to thank all of the volunteers who spend so much of their time dedicated to working, for free, for their neighborhood. In November, one such volunteer stepped down do to work constraints. John Macon is "retiring" as our Maintenance and Beautification Committee Chair. I know we all appreciate the work he has done. We are also indebted to David Fishel for stepping up and becoming our new Maintenance and Beautification Committee Chair.

If you have not yet voted for the 2007 candidates for Board Members and for the Budget, please either mail in your ballot to be received by the December 12th General Meeting or show up that night in person and vote. As expenses continue to rise, so does our budget. As in past years, we are also proposing an increase in the total number of weekly hours patrolled by our off-duty HPD officers in our self-managed Security Program. As we have in past years, we will cover any shortfalls in the budget from our surplus funds on hand in our accounts.

The board has also hired an attorney to help us with legal matters. It is thought that the bulk of this help will be in the small number of Deed Restriction violations that cannot be cured without seeking legal help. It is, sometimes, our final result to protect all of our home values.

Our annual Neighbors Night Out Security Picnic was a huge success. It was a great time for homeowners to meet our patrol officers, our local fire station crew, and enjoy some great food from Cue's Burgers and More. The kids also had a great time playing in the 3-in-1 combo jumper. The community building you all do every year at this time is awesome.

As the holiday season continues, I wish all of you the very best of it!

Ken Antil, President

Willow Meadows Civic Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 35551, Houston, Texas 77235

2006 Willow Meadows Civic Board Members and Committee Chairs

President Ken Ancil	(713) 320-1462	At-large Pos. 1 Stephen Polnaszek	(713) 721-8425
Vice-President Charles Rusciano	(713) 721-3136	At-large Pos. 2 Emory Glover	(713) 729-0445
Treasurer Benjamin Adler	(713) 283-7222	At-large Pos. 3 Sandi Peters	(713) 721-6429
Secretary Shari Mauthner	(713) 721-8313	At-large Pos. 4 Margo Barvin	(713) 728-3053
Security Stephen Polnaszek	(713) 721-8425	Beautification David Fishel	(281) 330-2555
Deed Restrictions Charles Cohen	(713) 885-0883	Architecture Garry Weisman	(713) 721-1250
Newsletter Editor Marc Bernabo	(713) 726-1973	Webmaster Chris Griffin	(713) 721-7212

Political Directory

These are the phone numbers of the elected officials most frequently contacted about state and local government issues:

County Commissioners:

Precinct 1, El Franco Lee
(Outside the Loop) (713) 755-6111
Precinct 3, Steve Radack
(Inside the Loop) (713) 755-6306

Houston City Council:

Mayor Bill White (713) 247-2200
Anne Clutterbuck, District C (713) 247-2004

Texas State Representative (512) 463-0518
Al Edwards, District 146 (713) 741-8800

Texas State Senator (512) 463-0113
Rodney Ellis, District 13 (713) 236-0306

HISD Board of Education

Diane Johnson, District 5 (713) 892-6121

Useful Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
WM Security Patrol	(713) 447-0200
Animal Control	(713) 238-9600
Dead Animals	(713) 669-7900
Garbage Pickup	(713) 551-7300
Heavy Trash Pickup	(713) 551-7320
Odor Hotline	(713) 837-0600
Street/Light Maintenance	(713) 837-0600
Water/Sewer Repairs	(713) 837-0600
Weeds Blocking View	(713) 525-2525
Harris County Flood Control	(713) 684-4197
Other City services	311

Treasurer's Report

by Benjamin Adler, Treasurer

Below and continuing on the next page is an unaudited comparison of our financial results (combined operating and capital) to the budgeted amounts. This is for the year 2006 and through November 31st.

Willow Meadows Civic Club Inc. Budget vs. Actuals: FY06 - FY06 P&L January - December 2006

	Actual	Total Budget	% of Budget
Income			
Advertising Revenue		2,000.00	0.00%
Annual Dues		0.00	
FY05 Assessments	975.00		
FY06 Assessments	111,636.00	117,000.00	95.42%
Prior Years Collections	1,500.00	3,000.00	50.00%
Total Annual Dues	\$ 14,111.00	\$ 20,000.00	95.09%
Court Filing Fee	257.74		
Deed Restriction Enforcement	1,450.00		
Late Fees	219.51	0.00	
Rebate	137.60		
Services	4.00		
Transfer / Refinance fees			
Refinance fees	450.00	0.00	
Transfer Fees	4,675.00	0.00	
Total Transfer / Refinance fees	\$ 5,125.00	\$,000.00	128.13%
Total Income	\$ 121,304.85	\$ 126,000.00	96.27%
Expenses			
Accounting/Bookkeeping Services	4,637.30	6,900.00	67.21%
Bank Service Charges	104.42	300.00	34.81%
Braes Bayou Association		200.00	0.00%
<u>Cap Budget</u> - Esplanade Sprinkler System		6,500.00	0.00%
<u>Cap Budget</u> - New Patrol Car		8,170.00	0.00%
	\$	\$	
Enforcement/Support Services	9,600.58	10,924.00	87.89%
General Meeting Marketing	200.00	200.00	100.00%
General Printing	1,898.87	3,000.00	63.30%
Houston Homeowners Association		50.00	0.00%
Insurance for Board	818.00	1,600.00	51.13%
Legal Services/Filing Fees	295.00	8,500.00	3.47%
Mail/Postage Expense	407.85	2,000.00	20.39%
Miscellaneous	91.00		
Monument Planting & Foliage		2,500.00	0.00%
Mosquito Spraying	3,174.00	4,140.00	76.67%
Mowing	5,720.00	7,400.00	77.30%
Neighborhood Night Out	2,484.00	3,200.00	77.63%
Office Supplies	324.98	300.00	108.33%

PO Box Rental	72.00		85.00	84.71%
Red Elementry PTO			300.00	0.00%
Security			0.00	
Security Insurance Costs				
Commercial Auto Ins Security	3,720.00		0.00	
Security Liability Insurance	3,500.00		0.00	
Workers Comp Insurance	1,612.00		0.00	
Total Security Insurance Costs	\$ 8,832.00	\$	9,724.00	90.83%
	\$		\$	
Vehicle & Cellphone	5,391.90		8,104.00	66.53%
Vehicle Maintenance	1,170.02		4,000.00	29.25%
	\$		\$	
Wages	77,792.64		96,716.00	80.43%
	\$		\$	
Total Security	93,186.56		118,544.00	78.61%
Security Stickers			650.00	0.00%
Storage	790.00		850.00	92.94%
United Orthodox Synagogue			300.00	0.00%
Website Hosting	219.88		1,200.00	18.32%
Welcome Packages			500.00	0.00%
Willow Meadows Baptist Church			300.00	0.00%
WMCC - Other			1,000.00	0.00%
WMCC Annual Directory			1,272.00	0.00%
Yard of the Month			300.00	0.00%
Total Expenses	\$ 124,024.44	\$	191,185.00	64.87%
Net Operating Income	-\$ 2,719.59	-\$	65,185.00	4.17%
Other Income				
Interest Income	4,604.70		3,600.00	127.91%
Other Income	1,966.85		0.00	
Total Other Income	\$ 6,571.55	\$	3,600.00	182.54%
Other Expenses				
Other Expenses			0.00	
Total Other Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$	0.00	
Net Other Income	\$ 6,571.55	\$	3,600.00	182.54%
Net Income	\$ 3,851.96	-\$	61,585.00	-6.25%

The total cash on hand in our bank accounts as of November 31st, 2006, was \$224,837.21.

Elections for 2007 Board Members and Budgets

By Ken Anctil, WMCC President

By now, you should have received your ballots for the elections of board members and our budget for 2007. You can either mail in that ballot to be received by December 12th, or you can receive a fresh ballot at the General Meeting on the 12th. Please feel free to call if you have any questions, (713) 320-1462.

2007 Proposed Budget

Below and continuing on the next page is the proposed operating and capital budget for 2007 as approved by the Board of Directors. The major changes from 2006 are in the area of security due to overall increases in expenses and an increase our weekly patrols from 65 to 72 hours. It is anticipated that the budget deficit will be covered by available surplus Civic Club funds.

Budget Proposal - FY 2007

Operating Budget 2006 vs. 2007

	Budget 2006	Proposed Budget 2007	% Change for FY07
Income			(left blank if no change)
Advertising Revenue	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Annual Dues			
Current Year Assessments	\$117,000	\$117,000	
Prior Years Collections	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Total Annual Dues	\$120,000	\$120,000	
Transfer / Refinance fees	\$4,000	\$4,000	
Total Income	\$126,000	\$126,000	
Expenses			
Accounting/Bookkeeping Services	\$6,900	\$6,900	
Bank Service Charges	\$300	\$300	
Braes Bayou Association	\$200	\$200	
Total Enforcement/Support Services	\$10,924	\$10,924	
General Meeting Marketing	\$200	\$200	
General Printing	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Houston Homeowners Association	\$50	\$50	
Insurance for Board			
Directors & Officers Liability		\$600	
Fidelity Bonding		\$300	
Total Ins for Board	\$1,600	\$900	56%
Legal Services/Filing Fees	\$8,500	\$8,500	
Mail/Postage Expense	\$2,000	\$2,500	125%

Monument Maintenance & Landscaping	\$2,500	\$3,000	120%
Mosquito Spraying	\$4,140	\$4,500	109%
Mowing	\$7,400	\$7,600	103%
WMCC Community Picnic	\$3,200	\$3,200	
Office Supplies	\$300	\$500	167%
PO Box Rental	\$85	\$85	
Red Elementary PTO	\$300	\$300	
Security	\$0	\$0	
Security Insurance Costs	\$9,724	\$13,235	136%
Fuel, Phone, & Answ Svc	\$8,104	\$10,600	131%
Vehicle Maintenance	\$4,000	\$4,000	100%
Wages	\$96,716	\$108,608	112%
Total Security	\$118,544	\$136,443	115%
WMCC Stickers	\$650	\$650	
Storage or Office Rent	\$850	\$850	
United Orthodox Synagogue	\$300	\$300	
Website Hosting	\$1,200	\$1,200	
Welcome Packages	\$500	\$500	
Willow Meadows Baptist Church	\$300	\$300	
WMCC - Other	\$1,000	\$1,000	
WMCC Annual Directory	\$1,272	\$1,272	
Yard of the Month	\$300	\$300	
Total Expenses	\$176,515	\$196,374	111%
Net Operating Income	(\$50,515)	(\$70,374)	139%
Other Income			
Interest Income	\$3,600	\$3,600	
Other Income	\$0	\$0	
Total Other Income	\$3,600	\$3,600	
Other Expenses			
Other Expenses	\$0	\$0	
Total Other Expenses	\$0	\$0	
Net Other Income	\$3,600	\$3,600	
Net Operating Income	(\$46,915)	(\$66,774)	142%
	Capital Budget 2006 vs. 2007		
	Budget 2006	Proposed Budget 2007	
Neighborhood Security Signs	0	1,335	
New Security Vehicle	8,170	0	
Esplanade Sprinkler System	6,500	0	
Total Capital Budget	(14,670)	(1,335)	9%
Total Projected Deficit (Paid for by surplus funds)	(\$61,585)	(\$68,109)	111%

The following candidates are running for the noted offices.

President	Charles Rusciano
Vice-President	Shari Mauthner
Treasurer	Sandi Peters
Secretary	Ben Adler
At-Large Director, Position 1	Stephen Polnaszek
At-Large Director, Position 2	Emory Glover
At-Large Director, Position 3	Ken Anctil
At-Large Director, Position 4	Margo Barvin

Good (Clean) Citizenship – ALL SHOULD HELP US KEEP THE NEIGHBORHOOD LOOKING NICE. -Charles D. Rusciano-

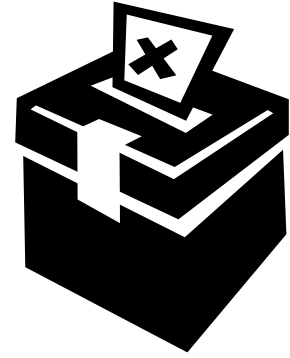
It never ceases to amaze the Board and most of the residents of our neighborhood how several residents completely disrespect all of our abilities to enjoy our neighborhood. City of Houston ordinances clearly state that regular weekly trash should not be placed out at the curb until after 6:00 p.m. on the day before a scheduled pick-up. There is an increasing amount of persons who are placing trash out at the curb 5 – 6 days before pick-up. In fact, there are about 40-50 residents who regularly have trash out on the curb on Friday. This leaves all other residents to see bags of leaves and yard clippings, not to mention those with heavier, bulky items out by the curb for the entire weekend. Just when we are trying to enjoy walks and relaxation, spending most of their time at home, we are forced to view all violators inconsiderate disregard for the law, and for everyone's ability to enjoy a nice, trash-free neighborhood.

At the Board, and the Deed Restrictions enforcement committee, we have heard all excuses. The most common one seems to be : My yard man/crew does not understand English. Frankly, this is flimsy, and it not excusable. If you pay the worker, you have the power to direct him what to do, including where to place the clippings. The bags of grass and leaves can easily be stored beside or behind the house until the 6:00 p.m. on the day before scheduled pick-up. Contact me if you would like a written, Spanish directive. I will be pleased to supply it for you to give to your crew chief.

The laws of the CITY OF HOUSTON for Solid Waste disposal can be found in Chapter 39, CODE OF ORDINANCES; it is easily accessible from the City's website at www.houstontx.gov/codes/codes39.pdf . Please read the law and obey it so that all of us can have more time to enjoy our walks through the neighborhood. Take pride in your yard and keep it free of trash until it is time to place it at the curb. Ask yourself, WHAT IF EVERYONE DID IT—placing trash out in piles, to be viewed for 5 or 6 days every week? Would you like living in that neighborhood? Let's respect everyone's right to fully enjoy our community.

Waiting to Vote

By Shari Mauthner, Secretary



As in past years, Harris County voters were well represented by our area -- Precinct 0255 -- in the recent General and Special Election. The only glitch -- lack of voting machines.

For this year's highly contested gubernatorial and US Senate and Representative races on November 7, 2006, we were sent only eight voting machines instead of the normal 10. As a result, voting lines were long and waiting times increased.

According to one of our election judges, there were 100 voters in line when the polls closed at 7:00 pm. While anyone in line when the polls close gets to vote, folks throughout the day were discouraged by the long lines and a few even left before voting. Most voters, however, waited patiently because, as our election judge heard from more than one person in line "this is an important election and I want to vote."

Who's responsible for the insufficient number of voting machines? Although the County Commissioners have ultimate authority over elections in Harris County, in practice the County Clerk's Election Department makes all decisions regarding elections: poll locations, number of clerks, number of e-slates, bilingual clerks, etc. Presumably, they based their plans based on projected voter turnout.

What can you do to make sure this doesn't happen during the next election? Contact the offices of Harris County Clerk, Beverly Kaufman.

Contact information to register a complaint about the lack of sufficient voting machines in Precinct 0255:

By Phone: Election Department, County Clerk: 713-755-5792

By Mail: County Clerk Beverly Kaufman
P.O. Box 1525
Houston TX 77251-1525

By E-mail: John German, Administrator of Elections in the County Clerk's Elections Dept.
jgerman@cco.hctx.net

Tom Moon, Assistant Administrator of Elections in the County Clerk's Elections Dept.
tmoon@cco.hctx.net

You should also notify the offices of the County Commissioners.

John Beaudion, Harris County Precinct 1 Election Liaison for Commissioner El Franco Lee

E-mail john_beaudion@cpl.hctx.net

Phone 713-741-1096

However you register your complaint, make sure you mention our Precinct number -- it's 0255.

Security Report

By Stephen Polnaszek, Security Committee Chair

Crime Analysis Figures

Updated crime incident reports through the end of October are listed below:

Date	Time	Offense	Block	Street Name
7/7-14/2006	Unknown	Forgery of check*	10400	Cliffwood
7/11/2006	0145	Aggravated robbery	9600	Greenwillow
7/24/2006	1113	Burglary of a house	10200	Greenwillow
7/24/2006	1130	Theft of lawn equipment	4300	Cheena
7/25/2006	1413	Burglary of a house	4800	Knickerbocker
7/30/2006	2018	Phone harassment*	4400	Cheena
8/8/2006	2000	Internet enticing a child*	9800	Greenwillow
8/9/2006	1311	Theft	4400	Lymbar
8/9/2006	1204	ID theft*	4500	McDermed
8/11/2006	1400	Intra-family auto theft*	4800	Knickerbocker
8/14/2006	1400	Forgery*	4500	Nenana
8/21/2006	2110	Injury by newly adopted animal*	10200	Cliffwood
8/26/2006	2230	Burglary of a house	4300	Waynesboro
9/11/2006	1500	Forgery*	4300	Cheena
9/17/2006	1635	Burglary of tool shed	4300	W. Bellfort
9/18/2006	1200	Auto theft	4400	Lemac
9/24/2006	1800	Burglary (uninhabited) habitation	4400	McDermed
9/26/2006	2030	Burglary of a motor vehicle	10300	Cliffwood
10/3/2006	1540	Assault (non-residents at bus stop)	4300	W. Bellfort
10/6/2006	0000	Burglary of a motor vehicle	4700	O'Meara
10/13/2006	0800	Burglary of a habitation	4400	Lemac
10/13/2006	1530	Failure to stop & render aid (non-res)	4300	W. Bellfort
10/14/2006	1900-0700	Criminal mischief	4300	Waynesboro
10/14/2006	2327	Burglary of a motor vehicle	4300	Woodvalley
10/15/2006	1726	ID theft*	9800	Cliffwood
10/15/2006	2000	Criminal mischief (domestic dispute)	4800	Knickerbocker
10/17/2006	0800-1700	Burglary of a habitation	4400	Cheena
10/19/2006	1900	Burglary of a motor vehicle	10400	Cliffwood
10/23/2006	0115	Attempted capital murder (of Officer Kennedy)	4300	Osby
10/27/2006	2030-2110	Auto theft	4800	Waynesboro
10/30/2006	2300-0630	Auto theft	4500	Waynesboro

*Incidents deemed not preventable by Willow Meadows Security Patrol.

October was the worst month for crime that we have had this year. It is too early to tell whether this is just a blip or an omen of an increased crime level in our neighborhood. By the time of our General Meeting in December we will have another month of data to evaluate. Let's hope that it is just an anomaly.

Improved Patrol Communications System

Long before October, the Security Committee, with extraordinarily insightful and diligent work from Security Coordinator Mike Barrow, was designing an improved communications system for use by the Security Patrol to overcome some areas of concern which were affecting the level of service to the neighborhood.

Because we do not fund a 24/7 patrol to keep our dues low, one issue which caused problems was the method of handling messages left for our Patrol Officers when no one was on duty. Such messages were left with our answering service; and when the next Patrol Officer came on duty, he could call in to the answering service to retrieve any messages left for our Security Patrol and then act on them. That was fine if the interval between when the message was left and when it was retrieved was not too long. The problem arose if the interval was long or if that time gap included 6 PM or 8 AM. At those times each day, the answering service forwarded all messages left for the Patrol to the Security Director, the Security Coordinator, and the civic club president. This cleared them out of the answering service's system so that when the next officer called in, these messages were no longer there. The original intent was probably to at least get word of these messages that had been sitting around to somebody. The result was often times that some very serious messages were being acted on far too long after the incident occurred, or sometimes not at all.

An improved communication system was approved by the Civic Club Board of Directors on November 12th. Basically, the new answering service provider will *immediately* send out an email to the Director, Coordinator, and President which will also be routed to the new email-enabled cell phone used by the Patrol Officers. If this happens during a period when no neighborhood patrol is scheduled for several hours (We still have a few of those.), we hope that any truly important messages will be acted on by either the current night owl committee chair/Director or the early bird Coordinator or other Patrol Officer who can check our security email account. This change in operating procedure should lead to better, more timely service to our residents in terms of responding to messages left for the Security patrol. As always, in case of any serious real or suspected criminal activity, **always** call 911 first. Then call our Security Patrol at 713-447-0200.

Besides this change, new handheld cell phones/PDAs will have improved data storage capabilities. Not only will we have an improved neighborhood directory on the phone in digital form (see below) but we will also have a "flash list" and a "watch list" in addition to Officer Activity Reports. To summarize these enhanced capabilities:

- **Enhance Email Capabilities:** Readily receive pushed email and have the ability to synchronize emails, lists, and data between phone sets and the phones and PCs
- **Flash List:** A list maintained on the Willow Meadows security phone device that details an incident, event, or circumstance viewed by an officer, Willow Meadows complainant or witness that contains specific details regarding a criminal event or suspicious event.
- **Watch List:** A list containing vacation, construction, or vacant home watches initiated by Willow Meadows residents for a specified period of time.

- Digital Resident Contact Directory: See next section

Improved Resident Contacts Information

Another area that needed attention in serving the security needs of our neighborhood was the effective contacting of our residents for any number of reasons concerning their homes/properties. What the officers have been using to look up contact information for our residents is the biennial Willow Meadows Civic Club Directory. This is insufficient for a number of reasons, the primary ones being:

- It only contains the home phone number of the resident.
- The contact information is for the owner, not the residents, in the case of rental properties.
- The printed Directory is out of date no matter how often it might be updated because of the brisk real estate market in our neighborhood.

Therefore, after a trial run at the recent Civic Club Annual Picnic and incorporating suggestions made by the residents who completed the prototype form, the Security Committee is compiling a resident contact database built on and improving upon the printed Directory. However, the Security Program's database of resident contacts will not be publicly available. The information to be closely held by the Security Program that we are requesting from residents on a voluntary basis (No one HAS to participate.) serves the following purposes:

- Provides cell phone and/or work phone numbers for willing residents so that the Security Patrol can contact you while you are away from home concerning something that may be happening to your home/on your property.
- Provides contact information for your neighbors or family members in the area who look after/have access to your home while you are away on vacation or traveling on business. This saves you from having to provide this information every time that you travel and helps the Patrol Officers know who has reason to be at your house while it is on vacation watch.
- Provides the identities and contact information for our residents who rent but who have been heretofore ignored by our published Directory but are just as deserving to be notified of criminal activities, etc., at their residences as their homeowner neighbors.

A copy of the Resident Information Form is included in this issue of the Newsletter. You may tear it out or photocopy it and send it along via fax or mail to the Security Director. We hope to have an Adobe Acrobat version of this form on the website by the time that you read this, so that you may fill out and fax or mail that version of the form to the Security Director.

Security Patrol Outfitted with Handheld Police Radios/Scanners

As the recent incident with the miscreant shot by Officer Kennedy has demonstrated, our Patrol Officers need to be able to stay in communication with HPD for backup assistance in serious situations. Therefore the Civic Club Board has approved and the Patrol Officers have been provided with a pair of handheld police radios, with scanner function, that enables them to stay in touch with each other in two Officers are on patrol, as occasionally happens, or in touch with HPD to provide backup from HPD Officers in vehicle and/or helicopters and/or from canine units. These radios have 14 channels which connect to many HPD locations and to the Houston Fire Department. The Officers were very pleased to be provided with these radios. These type of tool should help them function more effectively and provide the means to keep us all a bit more safe. Lamentably, the amount of police chatter from the surrounding neighborhoods seems to be running at an elevated level lately according to Security Coordinator Mike Barrow. This may relate to our own spike in crimes in

October.

Security Patrol Budget Proposes Two More 4-Hour Shifts for 2007

As initially proposed to and approved by the Board back in August, the Security Committee asked for funding of two more 4-hour shifts for 2007. We continue to add more Patrol Officers slowly as we battle the effects of tight HPD Officer availability because of the ongoing HPD Overtime Program. We have discovered that our wages are a little bit higher than those paid to off-duty HPD Officers by Rivers Oaks and Tanglewood. In talking to people in positions analogous to mine at a number of other neighborhoods that hire off-duty HPD personnel for their patrol programs, it became clear that they are having problems hiring new, highly qualified staff also. We would all prefer to keep to HPD personnel for our pool of applicants; but some of us, including Willow Meadows, are beginning to consider casting our patrol personnel nets to other peace officer jurisdictions to meet staffing needs.

Since we projected the budget in the summer when gasoline prices were about \$3.00/gal, we budgeted for 2007 based upon \$4.00/gal. Now that gas is back around \$2/gal we feel a bit chagrined, but one hurricane, revolution, or other set of disasters could turn prices back the other way. In any case, we encourage you to approve the proposed 2007 budget in the December letter ballot.

Security Patrol Budget Voluntary Contributions

While the Security Committee approved the two additional patrol shifts, we were in a bit of a quandary about what we would really have liked to schedule for 2007. Most of us would like to see even more late evening and night shifts covered by the Security Patrol, raising the weekly patrol hours to 90 hr, as opposed to the low to middle 70s officially proposed for 2007. If the October elevated crime levels carry on for a number of months, it will have been too late to easily change the budget request for Security coverage for the remainder of 2007. The difficulty of hiring Patrol Officers needs to be ameliorated also.

Being aware that while many residents expressed the wish for increased funding for Security Patrol coverage in the 2005 neighborhood survey, we also know that a number of residents, many, but not all, of limited means, are opposed to spending more on security and/or raising dues, which have stayed at the extremely modest \$150/yr level for many years here in Willow Meadows while the dues in many of our neighboring communities are at least double that. Many will not support even the modest 10% rise in dues that the by-laws allow for easy passage while we have a substantial surplus in our civic club coffers. However, if crime levels stay elevated and residents agitate for more patrol coverage, there will be no easy way to accommodate them until the proposed 2008 budget.

For instance, going from our 2006 budgeted patrol level of about 66 hr/wk at the wage levels approved for 2007 to about 74 hr/wk adds about \$11,000 just for base salaries before other factors are added in. If we could add the additional shifts to reach the 90 hr/wk patrol level (netting a pinch under 13 hr/7 days a week of average coverage) that staffs the rest of the slots that we would like to have filled at night and on the weekends, it requires another roughly \$23,000 just in base salaries. Going from this year's patrol staffing level to the more ideal 90 hr/wk schedule would increase just the salary component by a total of over \$34,000 compared to 2006 security budget levels. This averages out to about \$41.25 per household just to cover base salaries. In the absence of any or any substantial dues

increases this leaves us to make a major depletion to our surplus if pressure build for 90 hr/wk coverage, once we also add in increases for fuel consumption and extra vehicle maintenance. Right now that is not an option. The Board has approved and you will get a chance to vote on 74 hr/wk coverage.

If crime levels continue to be sharply up and we find that we can hire the patrol officers to fill additional shifts for a 90 hr/wk patrol schedule, we would like additional resources to be made available. We are again repeating, but in a revised fashion, the option of making **voluntary contributions** to be used for the Security Program. This netted a bit over \$1,500 by mid-2006. Our other separate line item, the long standing Officer Holiday Fund, had received over \$2,000 at mid year. If every household were assessed a 10% increase in dues, that would bring in only an additional \$12,300, so one can see that \$15/household in additional dues really would not really offset the 90 hr/wk patrol coverage. In the first 2006 Dues Invoice Letter we had a blank line which a resident could write in an amount to fund the Security Program. For 2007 the letter will have a line where residents can choose among \$50/100/150 or "other" for their extra contributions to be used for the Security Program. Many of our high percentage of elderly, limited income residents oppose raising dues or even deficit spending to deplete the cash reserve. On the other hand, quite a few residents have said that paying \$200-400/yr in dues would not be an undue financial burden. Those demanding more high quality security coverage like we get from our off-duty HPD Officers should be willing to fund that coverage at levels that consider the limited income residents who are our neighbors. So please pay attention to all of the lines in the dues invoice letter and do what you can to provide additional support for our Security Program.

Willow Meadows Security—Resident Information Form

The information in this top section identifies you by public information, which may, with your permission, be published in the Willow Meadows Directory

Use this information in Willow Meadows Directory? Yes(____) No(____)

Name (please print): _____
Owner Resident: _____ Renter Resident: _____

Street Number and Name: _____

Home phone: (_____) ____ - ____

The information in the following section will not be treated as public information, but will, with your permission, be used only for Security Patrol purposes such as contacting residents away from home concerning their residences. For example, after filling out this information, just tell us when you will be away on vacation and you will be set. There will be no need to tell us over and over who will be watching or having access to your house while you are out of town or how to contact when you are in town but away from home if we see suspicious activity on your property.

Fill in whatever applies to you.

Total number of residents in household: _____ Adults (19-64): _____
Children (under 19): _____ Senior Citizens (65 & over): _____

Work phones: _____

Cell phones: _____

Email and/or fax for Security Alerts: _____

Local persons (neighbors or relatives) to contact about your property during Vacation Watches and/or Business Trips:

Contact 1
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Contact 2
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

**Return to: Stephen Polnaszek, 10322 Willowgrove Dr., Houston, TX 77035-3433
or FAX to (713) 721-8314.**

Questions about this form or the Security Patrol Program: Call (713) 721-8425

2007 General Meeting Dates

Please mark your 2007 calendars for the General Meetings of the Willow Meadows Civic Club (WMCC). These meetings occur on the 2nd Tuesday of the last month of each quarter (March, June, September, and December). In 2007 those will be:

March 13

June 12

September 11

December 11

All the meetings begin at 7:00 pm at Willow Meadows Baptist Church (4300 W. Belfort at Greenwillow)

Top 10 reasons to attend the meetings:

10. Show support of your neighborhood
9. See what programs your Civic Club is actively pursuing
8. Articulate your opinion on future activities you'd like to see
7. Volunteer for a committee
6. Meet the Board members and Chairpersons
5. Make your voice heard
4. Get to know your neighbors
3. Contribute to the betterment of your community
2. Solve problems that affect us all

And the most important reason to attend:

1. Help make WM a welcoming, safe, and secure neighborhood in which to live

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Architectural Control Report

By Garry Weisman, Chair

The Architectural Control Committee reports two actions this quarter:

1. Construction of a new garage and apartment at 4431 Lymbar was approved and
2. Proposed plans for a new garage and apartment at 4403 Osby are being reviewed.

CONSUMER ALERT

“Vishing” Is A New Addition To Identity Thieves’ Arsenal

We received this consumer alert from Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott:

“Phishing” scams have been around since the early days of the Internet. They involve sending an e-mail that looks as if it's from a legitimate bank or merchant asking consumers to re-submit their personal information. Generally, phishing scam emails are intended to cause alarm by telling the consumer that they must resubmit personal information immediately or their accounts will be “suspended.” Consumers are then typically asked to click on a link that takes them to a legitimate-looking Web page in which they are asked to resubmit their personal information, such as account number and passwords.

In a new twist, “vishing” takes advantage of even newer technology to defraud unsuspecting consumers.

Like with phishing scams, vishing typically starts with the same alarming email which appears to be from a legitimate business or banking institution. But rather than instructing consumers to resubmit their personal information online, vishing emails tell the victim to call a phone number through which they can provide their information. When the consumer calls, an automated message identifies itself as the bank or retailer that sent the original email and prompts the consumers to key-in their personal information. Once this information is entered, the scam artist will be able to access the consumer’s account or open lines of credit in his or her name, thus causing considerable harm.

Consumers who by now are wary of dubious emails that link to bogus Web pages might not be as reluctant to call a phone number, especially if it appears to be a local call. However, identity thieves who perpetrate vishing often use new technology that enables them to subscribe to Internet-based phone service via Voiceover Internet Protocol (VoIP). This makes it possible for a scam artist thousands of miles away to set up a phone account that victims might believe is a local call. But just as in a phishing scam, victims will be submitting their sensitive information to a thief beyond the reach of law enforcement in the United States.

The warning remains the same: Never respond to an email that purports to be from your bank or other business that threatens “suspension” of your account or a similar drastic action unless you immediately re-submit your personal information, either by clicking on a link or calling a phone number. Legitimate businesses do not contact and threaten their clients in this manner. If you have any questions about such emails, contact the bank or business purportedly sending the email directly based on a phone number that appears in the phone directory or your statements. DO NOT call a phone number that appears on an email.

If you believe you have been the victim of identity theft, immediately file a report with your local law enforcement agency. You should also obtain an ID Theft Victim’s Kit through my office at 1-800-252-8011 or online at www.oag.state.tx.us for additional steps you should take to prevent further losses and clear your name.

Deed Restrictions Revision Committee Report

By Christine Nuckols, Chair

The Deed Restrictions Revision Committee met on September 19, October 10, and November 7. In September we identified 10 issues, listed in our last committee report, to consider and assigned most of them to committee members who agreed to research these topics. Since then, we have added three more topics: lighting, further construction and remodeling requirements, and conservation guidelines.

At October's meeting, we discussed enforcement of deed restrictions, exterior paint colors, and noise issues. The following motions were passed:

"Exterior colors for new construction or additions, or the maintenance of existing structures, must be submitted to and receive prior written approval from the Architectural Control Committee. The Committee may require an Owner to repaint a color that is not approved by the Committee."

The existing provision III.05 B should be amended as follows:

"No loud or offensive noise exceeding 85 dB(A) is allowed." should be added.

The deadline of 7:00 PM should be changed to 8:00 pm.

"The start time on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays is 8:00 am for hired maintenance, lawn, and construction contractors." should be added.

The topic of November's meeting was section III.01 A, B, and D.

Under Section (A) For new construction, the Committee passed motions concerning:

- Building height (not to exceed 35 feet over all above grade);
- Use of fill material to raise grade (no fill material can be used);
- Use of pier and beam construction, and pier construction requirements, to preserve the stormwater storage capacity of the watershed;
- Requirement for air-flood vents on elevated buildings;
- Movement of the sentence "Any finished space above the second story shall not exceed five hundred (500) square feet." to section (A) from section (B).

We moved that the following requirement should be added to section (B): "In any event the maximum non-permeable coverage of any lot shall not exceed sixty-five (65) percent of the total lot size. Non-permeable coverage includes house footprint, porches, patios, breezeways, atriums, garages, walkways and driveways."

The fourth sentence of Section (D) should be revised to read "Any entirely new two (2) or two and one half (2 1/2) story home shall not be located near than ten (10) [as opposed to the current seven (7)] feet from any side lot line of any residential lot."

The Committee will continue to whittle away at its long list when it meets next, in January.

Willow Meadows Civic Club Meeting Schedule

December 12, 7:00 pm	General Meeting, Willow Meadows Baptist Church chapel
January 14, 5:00 pm	Board of Directors meeting, United Orthodox Synagogue library
February 11, 5:00 pm	Board of Directors meeting, United Orthodox Synagogue library
March 13, 7:00 pm	General Meeting, Willow Meadows Baptist Church chapel

Trash Collection Schedule

Outside Loop 610 regular weekly garbage pick-up day is **Monday**.
 Inside Loop 610 regular weekly garbage pick-up is **Tuesday**.



December 4	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
December 5	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
December 5	Heavy trash (outside the Loop)
December 18	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
December 19	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
December 25, 26	City Holidays, trash collection delayed 2 days this week
December 27	Regular trash collection (outside the Loop)
December 28	Regular trash collection (inside the Loop)
December 30	Heavy trash (inside the Loop)
January 1	City holiday, trash collection delayed 1 day this week
January 2	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
January 3	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
January 3	Heavy trash (outside the Loop)
January 15	City holiday, trash collection delayed 1 day this week
January 16	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
January 17	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
January 25	Heavy trash (inside the Loop)
January 29	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
January 30	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
February 6	Heavy trash (outside the Loop)
February 12	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
February 13	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
February 22	Heavy trash (inside the Loop)
February 26	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
February 27	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
March 6	Heavy trash (outside the Loop)
March 12	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
March 13	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
March 22	Heavy trash (inside the Loop)
March 26	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
March 27	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)

Trash cans and yard clippings are NOT to be placed at the curb more than 24 hours before scheduled pick-up. Heavy trash may be placed out no earlier than 6 p.m. the Friday before pick-up. Stickers for garbage bags put out in addition to your wheeled container are available at Sellers Brothers Grocery on Stella Link. Call ahead to check for garbage bag sticker availability at (713) 666-4417.

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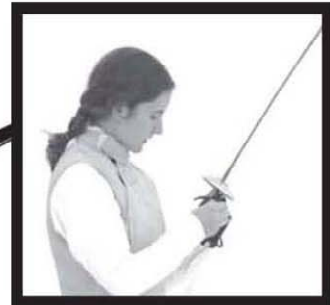
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