

Precinct 287 Civic Association

Organized July 1973. Serving Post Oak Manor and Willowbrook.



Spring 2026
Volume 60, Number 1

Greetings!

I will keep this brief because there's an article about me in this newsletter with more information than you ever wanted to know about me. I'm excited to start a new chapter in my life as President of Precinct 287 Civic Association. I take this role on with the hope that our neighborhood can continue to thrive despite some hurdles ahead of us.

At our March 22 Board meeting, Caroline Burum and CJ Claverie proposed forming a Finance Committee, created to "ensure adequate Civic Association funding by increasing annual dues participation and developing additional revenue sources." It was an excellent presentation with detailed information and well thought out suggestions. The board unanimously approved their proposal. They will work closely with our board in a coordinated effort to increase dues participation. We are so excited to have Caroline & CJ step up with this energetic proposal and we support them 100%. Just as they have improved our National Night Out event, I am certain they will deliver once again.

As reported at our January public meeting, our current 26% dues participation is not enough for us to break even this year. We are losing money. If we don't increase participation to at least 31%, we risk losing the ability to continue our security patrol. It is that simple.

We also need people to volunteer for committee vacancies. We need people for the new Finance Committee; a new Chair and volunteers for the Beautification Committee; and we hope to resurrect the Welcome Committee. We also have an At-Large Area Rep board position vacancy. If you are interested in any of these, please go to our website, click on "Contact Us", and send us your information and area of interest.

We hope and pray that our efforts will be successful, and we will once again be a profitable organization.

Hope to see you around the neighborhood,
Barbara Beard
President



General Meeting

Willow Meadows Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, June 16, 2026
7:00 PM - meet & greet
7:30 PM - general meeting

Notice of Elections

We need new volunteer board members!

At the June meeting, we will have elections for Vice President, Treasurer, At-Large Area Representative (Place 6), and the two West Area Representatives.

If you have previously volunteered with the Civic Association in any capacity, you may run for Vice President or Treasurer.

If you have never volunteered, you can serve as Area Representative. This is a great way to get involved in the neighborhood for the first time.

The time commitment is only a few hours per month plus quarterly board meetings. The Area Representatives assist the executive board with budget and planning decisions. They help other committees with newsletter content, National Night Out, and similar events.

The West Willowbrook Area Representative should live in the streets west of Cliffwood between Redstart and Goldfinch. The West Post Oak Manor Representative should live west of Cliffwood between Sanford and Warm Springs.

To submit your name for any position, email the Secretary at precinct287ca@gmail.com by April 15. Please include your full name, home address, phone number, and email address. You will also need to submit names and contact information for two references.

Thank
you 

Thank you to these outgoing volunteers:

Tom Halfey for serving as Treasurer.

Mike Brusco for serving as Vice President.

MusicFest 2026

MusicFest 2026 is Saturday, March 28 from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM at Willow Waterhole Greenway (5300 Dryad Drive). It's a full day of family-friendly music, food trucks, games, a costume parade, and fun.

MusicFest is a Houston tradition that celebrates the power of live music to bring people together. For 13 years, it has filled Willow Waterhole Greenway with a

full day of performances, food, and fun for families, neighbors, and music lovers from across the city.

This year marks an exciting transition as Levitt Pavilion Houston takes the lead, ensuring MusicFest continues for years to come. With a shared commitment to free, high-quality performances in public space, Levitt Pavilion Houston is working to make Willow Waterhole a permanent home for world-class music and community gatherings.

For more information, including the full music lineup and a view of the Official 2026 MusicFest T-Shirt, visit www.levitthouston.org/musicfest.

SAT MAR 28
11 AM to 8 PM 2026

MusicFEST

FREE LIVE MUSIC

PROFESSIONAL BANDS *BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET*
BEER & WINE GARDEN
FOOD TRUCKS
KIDS GAMES

Willow Waterhole
Greenway
5300 Dryad Dr 77035

CASHLESS EVENT
NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL ALLOWED
levitthouston.org/musicfest

  
SKYROCKET! the Band

This new trail begins at the Windwood Trailhead and proceeds east through the Native Prairie exiting at the NE corner of Prairie Lake. The boardwalk is precast concrete components that is raised above the Native Prairie approximately 18 inches. There will be a section of crushed granite which will allow County maintenance vehicles the ability to cross over the boardwalk trail. This educational amenity to the Greenway will include benches, educational signage, an outdoor classroom, and a viewing platform with shade structures.

This addition to the Greenway has been funded by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, the River Oaks Garden Club, and the Houston Garden Club.

Construction began December 8 with a planned completion date of March 2026. The boardwalk is now open to the public.

Save the Date: Willow Waterhole Cleanup on April 18

More details to come in early April.

Meet Our New Civic Association President Barbara Beard

by Susan Pitts

Barbara Beard says she thinks of our neighborhood as a well-kept secret. Large, established tree shaded houses and yards, minimal thru-streets that limit traffic, and crime is almost nonexistent. It is, she says, just a really good place to live.

Our new civic association president knows a bit about neighborhoods, having spent years moving around before settling here in 1997. Barbara was born in Wharton, Texas, but lived there only a couple of years before her family moved to the Garden Oaks area of Houston. Her father's sales job moved the family again, to Port Arthur when Barbara was about five or six, then to San Antonio until she was in junior high school. She then moved back to a Houston home near the intersection of Kirby and Braeswood when she was in junior high school. Barbara attended two public schools in our area, Pershing Junior High and Bellaire High School. While at Bellaire, she occasionally worked on her father's farm in Wharton with her mother, father, and brother. The family would stay at her grandmother's house in Wharton when they worked on the farm. She says that being a typical teenager, she complained about it then, but now looks back on that time with fond memories of being with her grandmother and having her family all together. After high school, she earned an undergraduate degree in accounting. She worked in the oil and gas industry in a number of cities including Denver, El Paso, Fort Worth, and Dallas. When her Dallas employer sold the business, Barbara received support under the Trade Readjustment Act to complete a Master's Degree in International Business.

During all these moves, Barbara stayed connected to our neighborhood through her great-aunt and uncle, who bought a house when this neighborhood was first built. After their deaths, Barbara's father was executor of their estate but left the house vacant for eight years. As her parents aged, Barbara considered moving back to Houston and her father made her "a deal she couldn't refuse" on the vacant home. Barbara moved into the neighborhood in 1997 and has been here ever since. She says her time here is the longest she's ever lived anywhere. She enjoys good neighbors, along with the company of her dog Daisy, who she

rescued when the dog was dumped in our area. Barbara believes exercise is important in life. She exercises at the YMCA five days a week, alternating a treadmill/machines/weight lifting workout with a yoga class to help with balance. She walks Daisy twice a day for a mile or two each time. She says in addition to being great exercise for both of them, walking around the neighborhood with Daisy allows her to keep up with what's going on in our area.

Barbara is an active volunteer in our neighborhood. She started as a National Night Out (NNO) host, then became an Area Representative. She later served as the Civic Association Secretary. Recently, one of the association officers resigned due to health concerns. To cover all positions, the other officers shifted around and Barbara accepted the role of President. She says she didn't mind assuming the responsibilities, because she has some ideas for our neighborhood.

Barbara would like to see more people, especially retirees, volunteer to join committees, serve as area representatives, and eventually assume leadership roles. She thinks a new membership committee suggested by the NNO committee might help get more people involved in activities. As President, she hopes to have more public meetings with speakers and to be more inclusive. She says there is a good mix of older and younger residents volunteering in the Civic Association, but she would like to work on getting a wider group of people involved. She would also like to develop fund raising events for the civic association by partnering with local restaurants and other businesses. She thinks it might be worth considering a return to hard copy newsletters to reach more neighbors. She would like to increase National Night Out participation, as well as encourage better participation by residents in paying civic association dues.

Barbara reports it is crucial that neighbors contribute to the civic association by paying their dues. At least 30% participation is required to fund our Security Patrol. The Security Patrol makes up 95% of the civic association's budget, and the benefits to the neighborhood are significant. The crime rate for our neighborhood is extremely low, even lower than the nearby Willowbend Civic Club area. There have been only two crimes committed in our neighborhood in the last six months of 2025, and they were smaller, nonviolent crimes such as thefts from unlocked cars. In addition, our security force is made up of great officers who've been with us awhile and know our neighborhood. Barbara reports that Officer Thompson is a pro at deescalating situations. She notes a recent example of Officer Thompson's skill in handling a situation she was personally involved in, when an apparently inebriated adult male wandered around in the neighborhood and Prairie Lake. Officer Thompson found the man sitting on a park bench, sat down to talk with him, and discovered the man was possibly homeless and in need of assistance. The officer called an ambulance to check medical issues and also arranged for social services support. We are fortunate to have a caring, involved security patrol, and Barbara wants to ensure this benefit continues into the future.

Barbara says she is truly passionate about our neighborhood. She is committed to keeping it safe and secure, and making sure it continues to be a good place to live.

Benefits of Precinct 287 Civic Association

by Barbara Beard

You probably don't know all the things that happen behind the scenes to keep this neighborhood clean, safe and secure. It takes a lot of effort by the nine Board members and 12 Committee members working together throughout the year. All board members and committee members volunteer their time and effort to keep this neighborhood going. No one is paid and we do not receive any perks.

90% of your dues go to the security patrol, which is probably the main reason we live here.

So, look what the other 10% of your dues go toward:

- Clean street signs
- Report missing street signs
- Report abandoned cars
- Report abandoned homes
- Report streets in need of repair
- Organize clean-up of abandoned homes
- Mow overgrown yards of homes
- Create and maintain Precinct 287's website with important information about current events, city council activities, trash & recycling, deed restrictions, newsletters
- Report homes that violate deed restrictions and city ordinances
- Report information from seminars hosted by our City Council Member Martha Castex-Tatum
- Monitor group homes and short-term rentals and report any deficiencies or violations; through our efforts, we have closed down four group homes
- Sponsor and promote clean up and beautification events (i.e. Prairie Lake cleanup)
- Instituted electronic dues payment process
- Sponsor and coordinate National Night Out events
- Coordinate security patrol – deters crime and resolves issues before escalation
- Provide network of area representatives (6) to assist with communication from neighbors to the civic association and vice versa
- Coordinate with Willowbend Civic Club on security patrol and mowing of common areas
- Maintain bylaws, dues collection, bank account, prepare and disseminate financial statements, and provide public meetings for Precinct 287 residents



In Search Of...

Interim At-Large Area Representative.

Volunteers for the Finance, Beautification, and Welcome Committees.

Volunteer for Yard of the Month.

ESL at Grace Episcopal Church and Corpus Christi Catholic Church

This is an open invitation to anyone interested in teaching ESL courses. No knowledge of a foreign language is required. A high school education in English is all that is needed. There are currently four levels of ESL going using the Cambridge Venture books. The lesson plans are well defined. There are teachers from all different walks in life participating. If you are interested in joining, please contact Bob Robleto, ESL Coordinator, at 713-201-4509 or bobrobleto@gmail.com and he will arrange an observation time for you to see if it would be a good fit for you.

Holiday Yard Winners

East Willowbrook

Jenn Bryan
4629 Kingfisher



West Willowbrook

Brandon, Rachel, Madeline and Rory
4818 Kingfisher



East Post Oak Manor

Lakshme Lees
4517 Benning



West Post Oak Manor

Allen Schramm
4722 Spellman



From April through September, Precinct 287 Civic Association awards *Yard of the Month* to recognize neighbors who go the extra mile to keep their yards looking amazing. It's all about showing love for our community and recognizing those who make it shine.

On the 1st of each month, volunteers canvass all four sections of the neighborhood and pick one yard from each section. Winners receive a *Yard of the Month* sign to show off their hard work, plus recognition on our website and in the newsletter.

In December, we also recognize those that transform their yards to celebrate the holiday season. The *Holiday Yard of the Month* award is judged on the second Saturday of December.

Whether you're planting flowers, trimming hedges or decking the halls, we see you—and we appreciate you. Let's keep making our neighborhood a place we're proud to call home!

The volunteer committee includes Sarah Barchas, West Willowbrook; Patty Murray, East Post Oak Manor; and Karen Richardson, West Post Oak Manor. There is an open spot for an additional volunteer. You can nominate a neighbor for *Yard of the Month* by completing the form at www.pct287ca.org/yard-of-the-month Or by clicking the button below.

[Yard of the Month Nomination](#)

Willow Pool

Willow Pool is located at 10500 1/2 Cliffwood Drive. The pool opens on Saturday, May 2 and is open on the weekends in May. Daily operations begin Friday, June 5.

Family memberships are available for \$255 through Sunday, June 7. After this date the fee will be \$280. There is a one-time fee of \$50.00 for new family memberships.

Individual memberships are \$165 through Sunday, June 7 and good for one person only. After this date the fee will be \$190. There is a one-time fee of \$25.00 for new individual memberships.

To download the application, visit willow-pool.org/application.pdf

For more information, visit www.willow-pool.org

Willow Pool is also hiring Red Cross certified lifeguards. To apply, email 4511floyd@msn.com.

Willow Wahoos Swim Team

Registration for returning swimmers opens on March 28 at 8:00 am.

Registration for new swimmers opens on April 11 at 8:00 am.

Swimmers must be at least five years old.

The cost is \$190 for the first swimmer and \$170 for each additional swimmer. Pool members receive a discount of \$55 on their pool memberships.

Practice begins Wednesday, May 6 in the afternoons. Practice moves to mornings on Friday, June 5.

For more information, visit willowwahoos.swimtopia.com.

Security Report

Crime rates in our area are lower than surrounding areas. Officer Thompson, our Chief Security Patrol Officer for almost 33 years, advises our residents to:

- Keep vehicles in the garage whenever possible and do not leave valuables in vehicles, particularly firearms.
- Remind lawn crews and contractors to secure their items.
- Know your neighbors! Introduce yourself and exchange numbers so you can help each other recognize unusual activity on the street.

The table below details crimes in the Willowbrook and Post Oak Manor subdivisions between 7/1/25 and 12/31/25.

Crime	Location	Brief Detail
Burglary motor vehicle	Street	Cash and credit card stolen from unlocked truck
Burglary motor vehicle	Street	Cash stolen from unlocked vehicle

2025/2026 OFFICERS	
President	Barbara Beard*

Vice President	Mike Bruso*
Treasurer	Alison Mitchell*
Secretary	Edith Napoleon*
<u>2025/2026 AREA REPRESENTATIVES</u>	
W. Willowbrook	Brandon Byers*
E. Willowbrook	Barbara Howell*
W. Post Oak Manor	Terry Hawkins
E. Post Oak Manor	Susan Forrest
At-large Area Representative	Evan Brough*
At-large Area Representative	<i>OPEN</i>
<u>COMMITTEES</u>	
Beautification	<i>OPEN</i>
Deed Restrictions	Matthew Camp
Finance	Caroline Burum, CJ Claverie, Valerie Runge
Lost Pets	Terry Hawkins 832-652-0715 tlhawk@swbell.net
Membership Database	Teresa Palmer
National Night Out	Caroline Burum
Newsletter	Jill Navarro
Security Patrol Secretary	Pat Powell
Signs	Andrew Etter
Super Neighborhood Delegate	Matthew Camp
Yard of the Month	Janeen Paprocki
Website	Edith Napoleon
Welcome	<i>OPEN</i>
*Appointed as interim until the next election cycle.	

PICTURE YOUR AD HERE!
\$50 per newsletter.

Contact precinct287ca@gmail.com for more information.

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