

Precinct 287 Civic Association

Organized July 1973. Serving Post Oak Manor and Willowbrook.



Summer 2025
Volume 59, Number 2

Hello .

Summer has been in full swing with travel, sun, and thunderstorms. Please read the list of the activities your volunteer civic association has achieved over the last year. The generosity of our board members and committee chairs never ceases to amaze me. The effort of each of our volunteers and their concern for our community shows intentional engagement and thoughtfulness for our neighborhood.

Less than 26% of 1,032 homes contribute to our voluntary annual dues of \$150. Thank you so much to those regular yearly contributors. Every payment makes a difference. The Board completed a comparison of HOA and Civic Associations in surrounding areas - please see the article below.

Unless our participation improves to 35%, we have determined that we must increase our dues during the following fiscal year (September 2026-August 2027). Security remains the largest component of our voluntary dues. As you may have heard about Harris County increasing the pay of their constables to align with HPD officers, we believe we must keep our off duty HPD officers, who staff our security patrol, in parity with other neighborhood organizations. Our civic association is one of the few with all off duty HPD officers on our security patrol. Officer Thompson has been employed by our precinct for over 25 years and coordinates our officers patrol during times when any criminal activity seems more frequent.

National Night Out is on October 7. Caroline Burnam is heading up this year's coordination and will be delivering balloons and signs to block hosts. Please consider being your block host for a couple of hours. More information to come!

Hoping your summer continues to be relaxing and hurricane free,
Alison Mitchell
President

Area Homeowners' Associations and Civic Associations

Homeowners' association fees are mandatory, and civic associations have voluntary fees. Willow Meadows homeowners' association charges a mandatory \$435 per year. Knollwood Village Civic Club is a civic association, and their dues are \$290 per year. Meyerland Community Improvement Association is an HOA. Their mandatory annual dues are \$700. Westbury has two HOAs – Parkwest 1 & Parkwest 2. Parkwest mandatory fees are \$300 per year. All other Westbury groups are civic clubs with voluntary dues. One of the Westbury voluntary groups charges \$385 per year with \$325 going for security. Westbury HOAs and CAs hire constables to patrol their neighborhoods.

Election Results

At the June meeting, residents voted to re-elect Alison Mitchell for President, Barbara Beard for Secretary, and Susan Forrest for East Post Oak Manor Area Representative. We are looking for an Interim East Willowbrook Area Representative.

We also voted to amend our bylaws according to the notices we sent out in May and June.

In accordance with the newly enacted bylaws, we've added two At-large Area Representatives. The Board voted to appoint Evan Brough as Interim At-large Area Representative, Place 5. The Board is still considering candidates for Interim At-large Area Representative, Place 6.



**CAN YOU HOST YOUR BLOCK? CONTACT
CAROLINE BURUM @ 832-293-6593
CBURUM39@GMAIL.COM**

SAVE THE DATE

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
6P-8P**

The word "Thank you" is written in a large, blue, cursive script. A solid red heart is positioned to the right of the word "you".

Thank you to outgoing volunteer Janeen Paprocki for serving as East Willowbrook Area Representative. Janeen will continue to serve as head of the Yard of the Month Committee.

Benefits of Precinct 287 Civic Association

by Barbara Beard

Have you ever wondered what Precinct 287 Civic Association ("Pct. 287") does for our neighborhood? There are many services that you probably don't notice. Here are some of the many services Precinct 287 provides:

- Clean street signs
- Report missing street signs
- Report abandoned cars
- Report abandoned homes
- Report streets in need of repair
- Organized clean-up of abandoned home on Kinglet
- Mowed overgrown yards of various homes
- Created & 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 & city ordinances
- Report information from seminars hosted by our City Council Member, Martha Castex-Tatum
- Monitor group homes & short-term rentals and report any deficiencies or violations – this area required a large amount of time to research regulations, and which agency is responsible for what area
- Sponsors & promotes clean up and beautification events (i.e. Prairie Lake clean-up)
- Instituted electronic dues payment process
- Sponsors & coordinates National Night Out events
- Coordinates security patrol – deters crime and resolves issues before escalating
- Provides network of area representatives to assist with communication from neighbors to the civic association and vice versa
- Coordinate with Willowbend Civic Club on security patrol & mowing common areas
- Maintain bylaws, dues collection, bank account, prepare & disseminate financial statements, schedule & prepare public meetings for Precinct 287 members

Mosquito Control

Mosquito season is here! Instead of spraying pesticides onto our entire yards—and onto fireflies, ladybugs, bumblebees, and butterflies—why not kill *only* mosquitoes with the mosquito BUCKET OF DOOM?!

<https://sidewalknature.com/2022/05/08/mosquito-bucket-of-doom/>



In Search Of...

Volunteers for the East Willowbrook area. This area includes the blocks of Redstart, Kinglet, Hummingbird, Kingfisher, and Goldfinch between Cliffwood and Greenwillow.

Yard of the Month volunteer. You *do not* need to live in this area of the neighborhood to volunteer.

Interim East Willowbrook Area Representative. You *do* need to live in this area of the neighborhood.

April Cleanup at Prairie Lake

On April 5, Precinct 287 Civic Association volunteers cleared up trash around Prairie Lake.





Yard of the Month

April Winners

East Willowbrook

Lily Carvajal
4513 Kinglet



West Willowbrook

Dawn Backhaus
4714 Hummingbird



East Post Oak Manor

Carol Netterville
4502 Sanford



West Post Oak Manor

Elizabeth Asnes
4721 Warm Springs



May Winners

East Willowbrook

Kay Jones
4402 Goldfinch

**West Willowbrook**

Lisa Burns & Kim Heffernan
4735 Kingfisher

**East Post Oak Manor**

The Lawrence Family
4422 Benning

**West Post Oak Manor**

Kathleen & Rob Erickson
11046 Waxwing



June Winners**East Willowbrook**

Heather & Cliff Harrison
4326 Hummingbird

**West Willowbrook**

Sally & David Cohen
4850 Hummingbird

**East Post Oak Manor**

T. Dragna
4551 Spellman

West Post Oak Manor

Irit Sirkes
4754 Sanford



July Winners

East Willowbrook

YeVonne & Williams Sawyers
4509 Hummingbird

West Willowbrook

Residents
4726 Kinglet



East Post Oak Manor

The Martinez Family
4522 Benning

West Post Oak Manor

Shelby Kibodeaux & Bruce Padilla
4730 Benning



Yard of Month is awarded April through September. The volunteer committee includes *OPEN*, East Willowbrook; Sarah Barchas, West Willowbrook; Patty Murray, East Post Oak Manor; and Karen Richardson, West Post Oak Manor. 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](#)

Security Report

Crime rates in our area are lower than surrounding areas. Officer Thompson, our Chief Security Patrol Officer for almost 32 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 Willowbend, Willowbrook, and Post Oak Manor subdivisions between **1/1/25 and 6/30/25**.

Crime	Location	Brief Detail
Burglary	Residence	Bike stolen from carport
Auto Theft	Residence	2020 Dodge 1500 truck
Burglary motor vehicle	Residence	Broken window
Harassment	Residence	Harassment of a resident
Burglary	Residence	Broken window; stove and microwave taken
Harassment	Residence	Harassment of a resident (second incident)
Reckless driving	Street	Greenwillow cul-de-sac
Vagrancy	Street	Person living on Willowbend Blvd. esplanade near S. Post Oak; Person removed by police/social service
Burglary motor vehicle		No details
Burglary motor vehicle	Street	Tools stolen from contractor's vehicle

Domestic Violence in Our Neighborhood

by Edith Napoleon and Monica Alzate, PhD, LCSW
(A portion of this is a reprint from the March 2022 newsletter.)

At our recent public meeting, Edith Napoleon mentioned during security updates that while domestic violence is not an area that our club tracks or reports on, we are aware of a number of incidents per year through public records and conversations with Officer Thompson. Unfortunately, this is not unique to our neighborhood.

Edith clarified with Officer Thompson after the meeting that at all domestic violence calls attended by him or other HPD officers, the officers communicate the availability of free city resources regarding shelter, counseling, and legal assistance through various agencies.

What exactly is domestic violence (DV)?

In short, it is a violent act that occurs between individuals who live in the same household or have a child in common. When it is between couples, it is called Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The violent act may be physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. It is not a private matter. It is a crime with long-lasting effects. Children who witness domestic violence between their parents usually have life-long consequences to their physical and mental health. Victims of DV also experience physical and mental health consequences.

What to do if you are experiencing domestic violence?

If you feel in danger, always call 911. If you are not in imminent danger, there are several resources.

Locally:

Houston Area Women's Center www.hawc.org

713-528-2121 (24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline)

1010 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77019

Bridge Over Troubled Waters www.tbotw.org

713-473-2801 (24/7 Hotline)

3811 Allen Genoa, Pasadena, TX 77504

Nationally:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Advocates are available to speak 24/7

National Center for Victims of Crime

1-855-4-VICTIM (1-855-484-2846)

What to do if you want to help a neighbor?

- If you have reasons to believe that your neighbor is in danger, always call 911.
- Provide your neighbor with above resources. They will point your neighbor in the right direction.
- Offer to give your neighbor a ride to a shelter, urgent care, ER, as needed.
- Be willing to testify if charges are pressed and witnesses are needed.
- Participate in National Night Out in your block every year. This is a great chance to meet your neighbors, exchange phone numbers, offer help, and stay in touch.

Remembrance of Things Past with Resident Susan Forrest

by Susan Pitts

Susan Forrest remembers watching houses being built down the street from her childhood home near Sanford and Goldfinch. Construction in our neighborhood began in the early 50s but the subdivision was not complete until 1962. Susan grew up here in the early 60s, attending Red Elementary School. She moved away after 5th grade, then returned to the area in 1993. The neighborhood has changed over the years, and Susan was kind enough to share some of her memories of days past. Here are a few of her recollections:

Across the railroad tracks on Willowbend heading toward Stella Link, there was a strip center on the left side of the street, now torn down, that housed a

U-Tote'm and a Mexican restaurant. Susan remembers it was a treat to eat out at the restaurant. On the other side of Willowbend, at the corner of Stella Link, there used to be a one screen drive-in movie theater, where Susan saw the first "Batman" movie. The theater was located in the space now occupied by storage warehouses. Susan thinks the theater may have been called Big Chief or something similar, and recalls her parents blowing cigarette smoke on the kids to keep the mosquitoes off. Many people smoked in those days before warnings on cigarette packages, most cars had no seat belts, and you were really lucky if your automobile had A/C. Diagonally across from the intersection at Stella Link and Willowbend was a small golf course in the space where townhomes are currently being built. Down Stella Link past 610 there was a strip center with a delicatessen/restaurant, Alfred's, a neighborhood institution for many years until it was replaced by Conn's Appliances and other stores, most of which are also long gone. There was another drive-in theater with three screens, the McLendon Triple, nearby on Main Street.

Speaking of Main, Susan remembers that before the street was widened and elevated, our neighborhood was very quiet, sometimes eerily silent. Before Beren Academy and the retention pond were built, the back of the neighborhood was a heavily wooded area of dense underbrush and trees known to the locals as "The Woods". Horses were pastured in the fields on both sides of Willowbend near the railroad tracks. Susan recalls that trains didn't run every 30 minutes like they sometimes do now. Her family lived on Greenwillow and when a train came by they would run to the back fence to see if it was a passenger train. Susan says there was always a manned caboose, and they would wave to the engineers and conductors, who would sometimes toot the horn. There used to be train tracks down I-10 and along Westpark, which were removed for widening the freeway and expanding Westpark to create the tollway. The result was an increase in train traffic on the tracks through our area, which along with the widening and elevation of Main and mowing down of the woods in the back of the neighborhood, meant our neighborhood became less quiet than it used to be.

South Post Oak has experienced great changes as well. Near the corner of S. Willow Drive and S. Post Oak, the Christian Assembly of Houston is housed in the building that used to be a bowling alley. Near the Shell gas station at the corner of S. Post Oak and Willowbend was a hamburger restaurant, The Chuck Wagon, which Susan recalls had a big chuckwagon on a sign out front. Down the road was a big A.J. Foyt Chevrolet dealership. Susan recalls a grocery store on S. Post Oak, maybe Belden's or Piggly Wiggly, that after checkout put grocery bags on a conveyor belt that moved them to the front door, where customers picked them up. Wyatt's Cafeteria occupied the space on S. Post Oak where Dona Leti's Mexican Restaurant recently moved in. There was a Pancho's Mexican Buffet in or near the space at one time. Susan remembers there was a little Mexican flag on the table, and customers could "raise the flag" to signal for service. The Walmart site used to be a driving range where you could go and hit golf balls.

When Susan was growing up, the 610 loop was just being built. She says it was built in sporadic sections in the 50s and 60s, starting with the north loop. One of her relatives who lived in Bellaire in the early 60s remembers playing in the dirt and riding his bike along what would become 610 through Bellaire. About this time, the Astrodome was also being built. Construction started in 1963 and was completed in 1965. Susan says that in our neighborhood, they could hear the giant pillars being pounded into the ground. Astroworld opened in 1968. The park was initially a fun, safe place where neighborhood kids could spend

the day without adult supervision, riding the attractions and meeting up with friends. Over time, the park became less safe and closed in 2005. It was demolished in 2006.

Nearby Meyerland Center was a big draw for neighborhood shopping and entertainment. It originally consisted of buildings arranged around a center courtyard open to the sky, with an assortment of small shops and bigger department stores opening onto the courtyard. On one corner of the center was Woolworth's, a five and dime store that later became an antique store with lots of little booths selling all manner of goods. The three screen Meyerland Cinema was a big draw – Susan saw the movie “Dark Shadows” there when she was in 7th grade. She remembers that on July 4, the center used to shoot fireworks either from the theater roof or a nearby field, and everybody in the surrounding neighborhoods drove over, spread towels on top of their cars, and sat on top of the cars to watch the fireworks. There was an AMC multiplex theater behind Randall's that connected to the area near Hu's Garden Restaurant through a center courtyard with a clock tower. Marco's Mexican Restaurant was across the courtyard entrance from Hu's.

Another popular family place that people in our neighborhood enjoyed was Westbury Square on W. Bellfort near Chimney Rock, where Home Depot is now, along with a few rotting remnants of the old buildings. Westbury Square was modeled on an old-fashioned town square, with a fountain in the middle and small shops down two “streets” and around the square. There was a candle maker, a glass blower, a pizza parlor and a bigger store called Cargo Houston, similar to Pier One, where you could browse for all kinds of funky items. There was a jewelry store, The Smuggler's Chest, where teen girls like Susan could find a peace sign on a chain. On the square was Rumbleheimer's ice cream parlor. The whole area was a safe place where families went after dinner on a weekend night. Kids were able to wander around by themselves, browsing in shops and meeting friends. It was a place where parents could simply say, “meet us back at the fountain in an hour” without any worries.

No reminiscence of Houston would be complete without at least a few memories of torrential rains and street flooding. Susan remembers walking her dog to the intersection of Willowilde and Goldfinch after a heavy rain in '94 or '95. The street dips a bit there, and the water was thigh deep. Susan recalls that her dog swam in it. With every hurricane or heavy rain, streets flooded but luckily few houses in our neighborhood were affected in the way that areas around Braeswood Bayou have been. Susan notes that it used to be that a home near the bayou was a desirable place, a location where you could cross the street and walk along the bayou. Hurricane Harvey, the Memorial Day storm, the Tax Day storm, and all the other floods changed that.

It's interesting to reflect on all the things that have changed in our area over the years. Big changes continue to happen now, with the closing of Randall's and the opening of new businesses in the center across the freeway from Meyerland. Susan notes that when she moved back in 1993, she was the young one and her neighbors were all in their 60s and 70s. Now she's older and her neighbors are young, but she still loves her house and the area. One thing that hasn't changed is the character of our small section of Houston. People volunteer to clean up the main roads, to help lost and abandoned animals, and to host National Night Out, along with many other projects. Happily, our neighborhood continues to be a friendly, safe place where people care about their neighbors and their community. May it always be so.

A black and white photograph of a large, modern shopping center. The building features a prominent vertical sign that reads "MAYFAIR". The architecture is a mix of low-rise and mid-rise structures with various storefronts. A large parking lot in the foreground is filled with numerous cars, mostly from the mid-20th century. The sky is filled with clouds.

Rumpleheimer's Old Fashioned Ice Cream Parlor

SUMMER LEAGUES '77

Houston's Family Bowling Center

Past Oak Lanes

11120 South Post Oak Between Willowbeed & S. Main 723-4190

The following is the "SUMMER LEAGUE" schedule at POST OAK LANES. The one participating more people is back in the Summer League than ever before. Pick the league of your choice and arrive at the time listed on the far left side of the program or go before us tonight on the far left side of the program. SUMMER LEAGUES are the final week of love. If you are interested in having your own bowling team, gather up your friends, pick your leagues and please contact us. It's a pleasure to serve you!

Nate Kitchin, Manager
Pat McCauley, League Co-ordinator

*Open All Night
Dinner & Soda's*

A cartoon illustration of a man and a woman walking towards the right. The man is wearing a striped shirt and shorts, carrying a bowling ball under his arm. The woman is wearing a polka-dot dress and also carrying a bowling ball. They are both smiling and holding hands. Above them is a cloud-like shape containing a sign that says "POST OAK LANES".

Ladies

CALL US ABOUT
RESTRICTION CLAUSES

MONDAY

9:30am - Post Oak Jr. League - New Trio - 3

Tuesday

10:00am - Post Oak Jr. League - New Trio - 3

Wednesday

2:00pm Midway/Battlers (Jr./Sr./M./F.) - Fun - 4

2:00pm Midway/Battlers/Juniors - Fun - 4

Thursday

10:00am Midway/Battlers (Jr./Sr./M./F.) - Fun - 4

10:00am A-JHS All Stars, 100+ age or quality - 4

SATURDAY SPECIAL DEBONS

- 8:00pm Jack & Jill - Strike Pairs
- 10:00pm Middle-Singles-to-Ten-Lights Out

- Playroom for pre-school children (during leagues)
- Restaurant - Cocktails
- D&D Bowling Supply

MONDAY

8:15pm Post Oak Community-League Men's Handicap - 5

8:15pm-Monday Nine Mixed Men - Mixed - 5

8:30pm-Monday No Mixed Men's - Four Leagues - 5

TUESDAY

8:15pm Pre-Puppers - Girls-High School League - 5

8:30pm - Party Time - Bowling Fun - 5

WEDNESDAY

8:15pm - Midweekers - Mixed-Fun - 5

8:15pm-hoopsters - Recreational League - 5

8:30pm - Twelve Mixed - Open-Fun - 5

THURSDAY

8:15pm - Adv. Rdnrs. J.V., Mixed Poplar - 5

8:30pm Post Oak Ladies-Mixed Fun - 5

8:30pm - Single League - Mixed Fun - 5

FRIDAY

8:15pm-Summer Friends, Women's Weekend - Fun - 5

8:30pm N.J. Benedictis - Church Directed - 5

SATURDAY

8:00pm-Post Oak Buffers - Mixed Fun League - 5

Boys/Girls

MONDAY

9:30am Post Oak Boy's League - Beginners/Ladies - 3

1:15pm - Post Oak Boys - Summer Fun - 5

TUESDAY

8:15am Post Oak Boy's League - Beginners/Ladies - 3

1:15pm - Post Oak Boys - Summer Fun - 5

WEDNESDAY

9:30am-Summer Bowling Quizzes - Ladies - 4

12:30pm-Bad Word'n' Ten Singles - Open to all - 4

THURSDAY

9:30am-Summer Stray Shots - Ladies - 4

FRIDAY

8:00am-Summer Belts - Ladies - 4

SPECIALS FOR EVERYONE
MON THRU SAT - 12 noon to 10 pm for \$2
and get the 3rd game FREE
SUNDAY - 10 am to 10 pm for \$10 return to \$1
\$1.00 per person - Minimum 2 per lane.

POST OAK "BO" BACHTHE DOUBLES
TOURNAMENT MAY THIS JULY

JEANINNE & BOB WEBB, proprietors

11120 South Post Oak

723-4190

Post Oak Lanes Schedule

<u>2024/2025 OFFICERS</u>	
President	Alison Mitchell
Vice President	Edith Napoleon
Treasurer	Tom Hafley
Secretary	Barbara Beard
<u>2024/2025 AREA REPRESENTATIVES</u>	
W. Willowbrook	Mike Bruso
E. Willowbrook	<i>OPEN</i>
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	Denise Couture
Deed Restrictions	Matthew Camp
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
*Appointed as interim until the next election cycle.	

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