



# Willowbend Civic Club

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY WILLOWBEND CIVIC CLUB  
WILLOWBEND IS A DEED-RESTRICTED NEIGHBORHOOD, SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTARY DUES. ESTABLISHED IN 1953  
WWW.WILLOWBENDCIVICCLUB.ORG INFO@WILLOWBENDCIVICCLUB.ORG  
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JANUARY 2026

## PRESERVING WILLOWBEND'S QUALITY OF LIFE

With the turn of the calendar to a new year, I wanted to take a moment to give you a "state of the neighborhood" update. I am pleased to report that our neighborhood remains fortunate to have very low crime compared to neighboring areas. This was not always the case. Thanks to the hard work of vigilant neighbors and an active Civic Club, **quality of life** and safety remain our top priorities, and Willowbend continues to be a safe neighborhood. We are thankful for the efforts and participation of the neighbors that worked hard so that we can benefit today. As a result of that work, our neighborhood has grown in desirability for new homebuyers. We are close to many important destinations in the city, such as the Texas Medical Center, the Galleria, Hermann Park, downtown, and NRG Stadium (which will host FIFA World Cup games this summer!). In addition, home values have risen significantly from the early 2000s. Last year, the average sales price for properties in our neighborhood was nearly \$450,000.

While we can and should be proud of these achievements, I want to share a **concerning trend**. Over the last few years, we have seen a **steady decline** in voluntary dues contributions. Many contributors are long-time residents who have consistently supported efforts to maintain and enhance our neighborhood's quality of life. We welcome and encourage newer residents to take part in supporting these ongoing efforts through annual dues.

I respectfully ask that you consider contributing to the quality of life in our neighborhood. First and foremost, your contributions pay for **security patrol** that has been instrumental in keeping crime in our neighborhood very low. Officer Thompson, the long-time leader of our team of Houston police officers that patrol our neighborhood, reports that we are one of the safest neighborhoods in Houston. Your dues also go towards maintaining the esplanade on Willowbend (from S. Post Oak to the train tracks in the direction of Stella Link). If this was not done, the city would only mow once a quarter. Instead, we keep the area maintained on a regular basis. Additionally, in partnership with Pct. 287 Civic Club, we maintain the S. Post Oak esplanade from Willowbend to Willow Creek.

We also are fortunate to have Officer Thompson as part of our security program. He has served in our patrol program for nearly 30 years and is a tremendous asset to our community. He knows many of the residents well and is aware of on-going issues. He also responds promptly to crime-related inquiries reported to the Civic Club.

If you are unsure if you have paid your dues for the 2025 - 2026 fiscal year, please email us at [Info@WillowbendCivicClub.org](mailto:Info@WillowbendCivicClub.org), and we can share your contribution status. In June 2026, we will start the new fiscal year and will send forms for dues. Please contribute so that we can continue to preserve our quality of life as well as your investment in your home.

Respectfully,

*Earl B. Fairbanks*

WBCC President

## WILLOWBEND YARDS OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
4310 Creekbend – Dan & Kathy Nguyen	4501 Creekbend – Daniel & Shellyn Shoenthal
4818 Creekbend – James & Lori O’Connell	4613 Creekbend – Sandra & Roger Farrow
4306 Hazelton – Janice Triola	4601 Stillbrooke – Marguerite Nitsch
4502 Stillbrooke – Sharon Greene	4501 Tonawanda – Jeffrey Pollock & Kevin Zahradnik
4321 Waycross – Kenneth Hunter & Charles Turner	4629 Tonawanda – Albert Mielke
10509 Willowgrove – Ragini & Rana Basu	4302 Waycross – Vivica Sonberg

**Special recognition to the 10700 block of Brookbend for their collective effort on holiday decorations!**

**If you would like to nominate a yard for Yard-of-the-Month, send us an email: [info@WillowbendCivicClub.org](mailto:info@WillowbendCivicClub.org)**

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### Boardwalk Trail Coming To Prairie Lake

A new addition is coming to Prairie Lake! This new trail will begin at the Windwood Trailhead and proceed east through the Native Prairie exiting at the NE corner of Prairie Lake. The boardwalk will be precast concrete components that will be raised above the Native Prairie approximately 18 inches. Also, 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.

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### Upcoming Events at Willow Waterhole

Be sure to check out upcoming events at our nearby natural treasure. If you have not yet spent time at Willow Waterhole, be sure to check it out soon! We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful bit of nature so close to our neighborhood. Prairie Lake (the section of Willow Waterhole that is east of S. Post Oak) is literally in our backyards! Visit the Willow Waterhole website for more information (<https://www.willowwaterhole.org/events>).

- **2/21 (8 am) – Audubon Bird Survey** – Join retired NDC Senior Naturalist Mary Ann Beauchemin, experienced birders, and volunteers on 3rd Saturdays for this free citizen science experience. Your observations help track species trends and inform the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy’s habitat restoration priorities.
- **2/21 – Volunteer Workday** – Volunteers will take on a variety of park improvement projects that keep our green space healthy and welcoming. All ages are welcome. No experience needed—just bring your enthusiasm! Tools and supplies will be provided, and volunteers are expected to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water and sun protection.
- **3/1 – Kids Fishing Clinic** – All Ages are welcome, but the target age is 5+. Parent or chaperone must be present for anyone under 14 years old. We’ll teach kids and family members the basics of fishing — from

casting to identifying fish — in a fun, safe, and hands-on environment. No experience or equipment needed! We'll provide the rods and bait, all you will need to bring is water and sunscreen. Limited spots available.

- **3/7 – Weeds & Wildlife Foraging Workshop** – Join wild foods expert Mark “Merryweather” Vordenbruggen and permaculturist/herbalist Joanna Botvin for guided walks uncovering the edible and medicinal plants hiding in plain sight. Learn how native species have sustained people for generations and discover how they connect to our changing urban landscape. During and after the tours, enjoy tastings inspired by the plants found onsite. Come curious, leave empowered, and see your city’s green spaces in a whole new way. Cost is \$35 / person.
- **3/20 (11 am – 8 pm)** – MusicFEST 2026 – MusicFEST 2026 brings a full day of live music, food, and community to the heart of Willow Waterhole. Come spread out on the lawn, discover new artists, and enjoy the kind of open-air energy only Houston can offer.

Are you a new Willowbend neighbor? If so, send us an email at [info@WillowbendCivicClub.org](mailto:info@WillowbendCivicClub.org). We would love to meet you and bring you a New Resident Welcome Packet with information about our Civic Club and the neighborhood.

Would you like to advertise with us? Contact us at [info@WillowbendCivicClub.org](mailto:info@WillowbendCivicClub.org) for advertising fees.

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### Want to Pay Your Dues or Make a Donation?

Use this convenient QR code to pay!

The dues & patrol amount is \$130.00, which includes a \$5 service fee from PayPal.

Visit our website [www.WillowbendCivicClub.org](http://www.WillowbendCivicClub.org) for more information.

(WBCC Fiscal Year: June 1 – May 31)



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ANGELA RITCHEY  
COMMITMENT IN ACTION

Angela Ritchey offers unique insights into an ever-changing real estate market, making sure her clients are always kept up to date. With her strong combination of marketing and people skills, Angela guides clients through each step of the real estate process. Her highly effective marketing approach is bolstered by the world-class support of Coldwell Banker®.

Whether you're considering buying or selling a home, contact your neighbor in Willowbend, Angela Ritchey.

With Angela, you get determination, commitment and action!

## ANGELA RITCHEY

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AngelaRitchey.com



## Thinking About Rightsizing— But Feeling Overwhelmed?



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- ✓ We don't know where to start 😞
- ✓ I'm afraid of making a mistake 😞
- ✓ This home holds precious memories 😞

### You don't have to figure this out alone.

- ✦ I've lived in this neighborhood for 27+ years and have helped many local homeowners;
- ✦ Find trusted contacts for every step
- ✦ Make smart, comfortable decisions;

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