

# Precinct 287 Civic Association

Organized July 1973. Serving Post Oak Manor and Willowbrook.



Summer 2024  
Volume 58, Number 2

Greetings!

Tropical Storm Beryl caused so much home and tree damage, changing the landscape with fallen fences and tragic looking tree boughs over driveway and homes. Most residents were without power for over a week, with only the enviable sound of generator hums breaking the silence.

The Monday that the storm departed, so many neighbors were out helping other neighbors; clearing driveways so cars could escape; clearing drains so rainfall would not flood our homes; taking phone numbers of tree guys and fencing contractors. We have great neighbor stories with more to come. Thank you so much to those that looked out for the needs of others - sharing power, freezer space, bedrooms with A/C, and tips on where to find gas and ice.

National Night Out is coming up on Tuesday, October 1. We are looking for more block hosts with a driveway and friendly smile to chat with neighbors, share beverages, and gather emails. The goal is to stay connected as a community, with volunteer opportunities and suggestions as to how we can make our neighborhood space better.

As summer blazes to an end, I encourage you to check out Prairie Lake's new pathway and trees as a family-friendly destination. Prairie Lake is a great place to walk your dog on the leash and enjoy the birds, fresh air, and water.

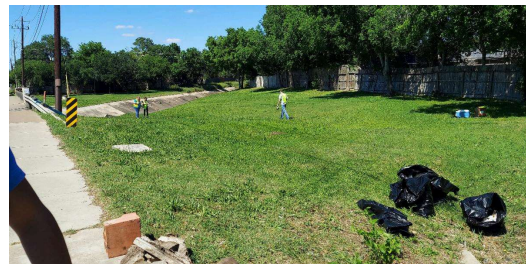
See you around the neighborhood,  
Alison Mitchell  
President



## June General Meeting PowerPoint

### Neighborhood Beautification

The April 21 cleanup along the drainage ditch on S. Post Oak was hugely successful. There was a great turnout of residents, including quite a few father-daughter teams. Thanks to the following volunteers: Tom Hafley, Alison Mitchell, Edith Napoleon, Patty Napoleon, Barbara Beard, John Landua, Dave Wallace, Megan Wallace, Ted Walsh, Miranda Maldonado, Mila Maldonado, Adrian Segovia, Mercedes Segovia, and Hazel Moskal.





## Exemplary Neighbor

by T.G. Patterson, 4323 Benning

This note is to extend my thanks and appreciation to my neighbor William C. for his tireless, genuine, and selfless assistance during the recent events with Hurricane Beryl.

William was ready, willing, and able to help anyone who was in distress. He provided fuel, transportation, a generator, cooling and electronics recharging as requested.

These things and more he happily provided all while balancing work, clean up, life, etc. He was most attentive to our more elderly residents as well and was instrumental in repairing a generator to become operational for cooling and refrigeration for another neighbor.

He consistently demonstrates the best and most desirable traits of mankind and is a tribute to his family, parents, and this neighborhood in so many ways. Events such as the most recent hurricane are just another opportunity for good people such as William to step up and really shine when nature and life knocks a person, city, or neighborhood down for a bit.

He also smokes quite a brisket.



**National Night Out:  
Tuesday, October 1, 2024**

**Block Hosts Needed!**

**Please email  
[precinct287ca@gmail.com](mailto:precinct287ca@gmail.com)**

**and the coordinator will respond with details.**

**Big thanks to our outgoing volunteers: Teresa Palmer, for serving as Treasurer; Kathy Long and Jeff Burrow, for serving as Area Representatives; and Richard Orellana, for new resident welcome packets.**

Thank  
you 



## **City of Houston Announces Changes to Yard Waste Curbside Collection**

As of May 9, 2024, City-approved biodegradable bags bearing the City seal are no longer required. Residents now have the options to use any 100% biodegradable bag (or compostable bag) meeting the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D6400 or EN 13432 specifications.

Lawn and leaf bags, like the one shown, meet specifications and can be purchased at home improvement stores, grocery stores, or online. They have a 30-gallon capacity and do not deteriorate in the rain.

For the full press release, click the button below.

**Solid Waste Management Department Announces Changes To Yard Waste Curbside Collection**

## **Yard of the Month**

### **May Winners**

**East Willowbrook**

MN Smith  
4509 Kinglet



**West Willowbrook**

Michele Hedges  
4762 Redstart



**East Post Oak Manor**

Laura & Grant Lawrence  
4422 Benning



**West Post Oak Manor**

Celia & David Jones  
4745 Sanford

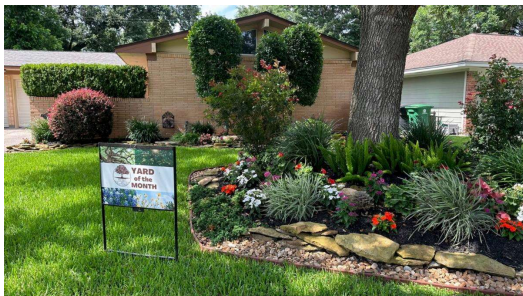


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**June Winners**

**East Willowbrook**

Donna Merklein  
4322 Kinglet



**West Willowbrook**

*no award*

**East Post Oak Manor**

Lakshme Lees  
4517 Benning

**West Post Oak Manor**

Elizabeth Asnes  
4721 Warm Springs



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## July Winners

**East Willowbrook**  
4545 Kingfisher



**West Willowbrook**  
Bob & Lauren Williams  
4701 Hummingbird



**East Post Oak Manor**  
Molly McGuirk  
4326 Spellman



**West Post Oak Manor**  
John Williams  
11114 Waxwing



Yard of Month is awarded April through September. The volunteer committee includes Roberta Lopis, 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](http://www.pct287ca.org/yard-of-the-month) or by clicking the button below.

[Yard of the Month Nomination](#)

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## Resident Profile - Kathy Long

by Susan Pitts

Kathy Long is a volunteer extraordinaire. For over ten years, she has helped local animal rescue groups by fostering, arranging adoptions, and doing whatever she can to support organizations that help neighborhood dogs and cats. She has fostered many dogs over the years, helping them learn the skills they need to be good pets and find their forever homes. She has helped out at numerous adoption events, often spending her Saturday mornings at our local West Loop PetSmart. With another woman, she has served as the computer research team for Houston Cares Animal Rescue Group to match prospective adopters with rescued animals. Kathy says they are looking every day for what's happening with animals in and around our area. For example, she recently made a rescue trip to pick up a dog with a post-surgical crisis. In addition to Houston Cares, she is involved with several other local groups that provide free or low cost spay/neuter services, foster animals, care for street dogs, take in owner surrenders, and save small dogs in area shelters.

Kathy and her husband moved to our neighborhood in 1978. She first came to Houston for work in printing sales after graduating from college. A friend lived in a local apartment complex, and when Kathy visited, she fell in love with the neighborhood. After she married, the newlyweds searched the area for their first home, eventually buying a house on Kingfisher. They have been there ever since, for over 40 years now. After she retired in 2014, Kathy started looking for ways to get involved. While scrolling Next Door, she noticed how many lost dogs were posted. Then she saw a post from Houston Cares, originally named Westbury Cares, about a need for dog fosters. The rest, as they say, is history, and Kathy has worked tirelessly as a dedicated volunteer with local animal groups ever since. After her start in fostering, she asked to get involved with computer work on the team that vetted prospective adopters for foster dogs in the Westbury Cares program. Together with another woman, Kathy began setting up all the vetting appointments and handling the research to approve adopters. Kathy says Houston Cares almost always has at least 100 dogs and cats in their care. Approving adopters is important work that not only helps shelter animals find their forever homes, but also frees up space for other dogs and cats in need of a safe haven.

Houston Cares is not the only group Kathy works with. She is also involved with The Empty Shelter Project - Texas, a group that provides spay and neuter services to underserved communities, and Houston Pet Set, another organization offering inexpensive or free spay/neuter services. She fosters with Berg Foster Life, which pulls small dogs 15 lbs. and under from BARC and other shelters. She has also helped Rough Start, a group that provides transport to move animals up north to potential adopters, and K-9 Angels Rescue, an organization dedicated to rescuing and rehoming shelter dogs in and around the City of Houston. Kathy has three rescue dogs of her own at home: a 17-year-old terrier mix she describes as "a little 12-pound mess," a dog

whose owner could no longer care for it, and a feral dog who is slowly learning to trust as a result of Kathy's loving care.

For any neighborhood residents who are interested in getting involved, there are many ways to help local animals. Rescue groups always need fosters, donations, and volunteers. Fostering helps not only the fostered dog, but also frees up resources and space to save more animals. Young people are always welcomed to take dogs out for potty walks. Houston Cares' Saturday adoption events at the PetSmart on West Loop South usually needs volunteers. Donations are another way to help. Gringo's Restaurant is currently sponsoring a matching grant program for Houston Cares. To support community building, Gringo's asks that matching funds come from neighborhood residents. Another fundraiser coming in the near future is a Bingo Night. Kathy says to look for details on the Houston Cares Facebook page. If you're interested in helping, below are links to some of the organizations in our area, along with a couple of pictures from Kathy's good works.

<https://houstonscaresrescue.org>

<https://houstonpetset.org>

<https://theemptyshelterproject.org>

<https://www.k-9angelsrescue.org>

<https://bergfosterlife.org>



Current Houston Cares foster,  
Arwen (from Lord of the Rings)



Houston Cares at PetSmart-West  
Loop, Saturdays from 11 AM to 2 PM

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## Abandoned Home Violations

Call 311 to report the following violations at abandoned homes.



**Stagnant Water.** This is a breeding ground for mosquitos and poses health and safety risks. To avoid, eliminate any holes and remove containers, including tires, that collect water.

Fines

1st offense \$50-\$1,000  
2nd offense \$100-\$1,500  
3rd offence \$200-\$2,000

**Permitting conditions to attract rats.** A resident may not accumulate lumbar, boxes, barrels or similar materials that maybe used to harbor rats. Control of rat infestations are the responsibility of the occupant/owner.

Fines

\$100-\$2000

**Overgrown lots.** Overgrown weeds, shrubs, grass, and vegetation are fire and safety hazards. The property owner is responsible for maintaining weeds and grass at 9 inches or less and brush or shrubbery at 7 feet or less.

Fines

1st offense \$50-\$1,000  
2nd offense \$100-\$1,500  
3rd offence \$200-\$2,000

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## Security Report

Crime rates in our area are lower than surrounding areas. Officer Thompson, our Chief Security Patrol Officer for almost 31 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 1/1/24 and 6/31/24.

Crime	Location	Brief Detail
Theft	Residence	Check book stolen
Burglary motor vehicle	Street	Texas license, credit card, money, Smith & Wesson pistol
Burglary motor vehicle	Street	Laptop, backpack,

		damaged window
Burglary motor vehicle	Street	Backpack, headset, damaged window
Burglary	Residence	Home is being remodeled; construction equipment stolen from garage
Burglary motor vehicle	Residence	Smith & Wesson gun
Burglary	Residence	Family matter
Burglary	Residence	Suspect attempted to enter through side door but ran off
Aggravated Assault	Residence	Family matter
Burglary motor vehicle	Residence	Several items stolen including a pistol; damaged window
Burglary motor vehicle	Street	Workman doing repairs, gun stolen from truck
Burglary	Residence	No detail available
Burglary	Yard	Plant and planter stolen
Burglary motor vehicle	Driveway	Window broken but nothing stolen
Burglary motor vehicle	Residence	Drill stolen
Burglary	Residence	No detail available
Burglary	Residence	Jewelry
Burglary	Yard	Equipment stolen from yard crew
Other		Officer Thompson investigated seven other incidents, including suspicious persons in the street and possible squatters in vacant houses

THE CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCES THE HIRING OF ITS FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - KATHERINE BRAVO NEWTON. Katherine comes to us after eleven years of experience with Trees for Houston where she had roles as marketing, volunteering, and projects director. She has a B.S. degree from Texas A&M in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. She already has knowledge of the Greenway property and has worked with Conservancy members on projects. Katherine's start date will be August 5th and she will be moving into the Conservancy's new office at 5600 South Willow Drive. This is a very exciting time for the all-volunteer Conservancy and we are so pleased to have Katherine aboard as the first employee to help take us to the next level.

For more information about WWGC, visit [www.willowwaterhole.org](http://www.willowwaterhole.org).

<b><u>2024/2025 OFFICERS</u></b>	
President	Alison Mitchell
Vice President	Edith Napoleon
Treasurer	Tom Hafley
Secretary	Barbara Beard
<b><u>2024/2025 AREA REPRESENTATIVES</u></b>	
W. Willowbrook	Mike Bruso
E. Willowbrook	Janeen Paprocki
W. Post Oak Manor	Terry Hawkins
E. Post Oak Manor	Susan Forrest
<b><u>COMMITTEES</u></b>	
Beautification	Caroline Burum
Deed Restrictions	Matthew Camp
Lost Pets	Terry Hawkins 832-652-0715 tlhawk@swbell.net
Membership Database	Teresa Palmer

National Night Out	Monica Alzate
Newsletter	Jill Navarro
Security Patrol Secretary	Pat Powell
Signs	Andrew Etter
Super Neighborhood Delegate	Matthew Camp
Yard of the Month	Janeen Paprocki
Website	Caroline Lewis
*Appointed as interim until the next election cycle.	

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\$50 per newsletter.

Contact [precinct287ca@gmail.com](mailto:precinct287ca@gmail.com) for more information.

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