

Woodwind Lakes

See
special notice
of community
changes on
page 2

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024



CALLING ALL WWL RESIDENTS

Join us for this year's 4th of July Parade!

Dear Residents, Scouts, and Scout Leaders,

We're thrilled to announce this year's Woodwind Lakes neighborhood 4th of July parade, and **we need your help to make it a success!** As one of the largest community events in WWL, the 4th of July Parade and Party at the Family Pool is a "can't miss" event this summer.

Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Girl Scouts, Brownies, American Heritage Girls, and all scout groups are invited to lead the parade, proudly carrying our nation's colors: the Red, White, and Blue.

Here are the details:

Date: July 4th

Time: Parade line-up at 9:30 am, Opening Ceremony and Parade start promptly at 10:00 am

Location: Family Pool, 9015 Woodwind Lakes Dr.

Decorate your car, side-by-side, golf cart, or ATV for the 4th of July parade. Prizes for the best decorated cart, ATV, and car will be announced with fun prizes.

We're counting on your participation to make this event memorable for the entire neighborhood. Older scouts will carry large flags, while younger ones will distribute small flags to spectators along the parade route. All scouts are requested to come dressed in their respective uniforms.

But what if it rains? We've got you covered:

Rain Plan: In case of rain, the event will be postponed until July 5th.

Please keep an eye on the Woodwind Lakes website for updates.

And here's a sneak peek at what's in store for July 4th:

- **Parade:** 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- **Lunch:** 12:00 pm
- **Fun Activities:** Face Painting, Musical Chairs, Bingo, and more from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- **Delicious Treats:** Enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, homemade ice cream, cakes, and more throughout the day!

So, mark your calendars, and join us for a day filled with patriotism, community spirit, and lots of fun! Please contact Brian Loeb at bloeb@outlook.com if you can volunteer, participate, or help in any way.

Let's make this 4th of July celebration one to remember!

Warm regards, Brian Loeb, WWL HOA Board Director

Community changes of special note

At the Special Board Meeting held on Thursday, May 30, Board members voted unanimously on two important items that may have an impact on our community residents. We are sharing the topics of the votes and the reasoning behind each vote. We ask you to join us in supporting the move of both votes.

1. The Board voted to terminate the Woodwind Lakes HOA contract with Graham Management.

While this important decision was not made lightly, events over the past 6-7 months and most recently, unpaid bills within the past month, made the decision necessary. Some of the items put forth include:

- Financial information has been concealed from the Board. Despite repeated protests, the Board did not get access to current invoices to review and approve until March of 2024. Prior to March, Graham Management took responsibility upon themselves to approve all invoices, despite contractual terms that denied them the authority to do so. Graham made numerous unauthorized purchases and paid for them without authorization of the Board.
- Even today, the Board is prevented from access to past invoices.
- The unwillingness to be a partner displayed by Graham Management regarding our financial history suggests a strong motivation to conceal past actions.
- Despite a contractual obligation for Graham Management to obtain the signature of a Board member on all checks and written instructions to Graham in January 2024, Graham Management continued to issue checks to vendors in violation of this policy until March of 2024. Graham Management stated a previous Board member authorized this practice but would not provide any evidence of this authorization.
- Graham Management has contracted for unnecessary and unused services resulting in the payment of tens of thousands of dollars for services that provided no benefit to the community. Examples of this include unused ATT lines and Porter Services.
- Within the past month, Graham Management has revealed numerous substantial unpaid bills, some over a year old. These bills include Texscape (contract ended in 2023), Rolling Fork Constable, Accutek, Cypress Creek Pest Control, Terminix and Windfern Storage. These bills are still being evaluated but it is estimated they will inflate the previously reported \$50,000 budget overrun for 2023, by approximately an additional \$100,000. The fact that some bills have remained concealed from the Board for over a year, despite repeated billing attempts, has decimated our budget, damaged our credit and in some cases has resulted in the cessation of services to the community.
- There may be additional unpaid bills that remain to be discovered. It is anticipated that the necessity of paying these overdue bills will remove at least \$100,000 from the current year's budget. This has an obvious and devastating effect on our budget and our ability to react to unanticipated expenses like the current storm cleanup.
- The concept that we can simply use reserve money to cover these expenses is not correct and has absolutely no grounding. The budget overruns may exacerbate damage to our credit, especially if it becomes necessary to pay overruns from our already underfunded reserves.
- Over the past years, Graham Management has engaged in inept accounting without adhering to a budget. Graham Management gave the Board inexcusable advice that it was not necessary to adhere to a budget even though every reputable company and institution in America and in the world does so.
- The 2024 budget was not complete and was not a realistic forecast of spending. Overspending and mismanagement has been concealed by charging large expenditures to "miscellaneous", "admin" and other catch-all categories that conceal the actual spending. Expenditures were allocated to random budget items unconnected with the correct attribution that have prevented analysis of past expenditures and meaningful forecast of future expenditures. The potential for fraud cannot be easily dismissed.
- Graham Management increased their fees by 15% in 2024. This was stated to be an action of the previous Board but Graham cannot provide a revised contract nor meeting minutes where any Board approved this increase in fees.
- There are numerous examples of Graham Management providing improper legal advice to the Board, especially regarding the Board elections of 2020, 2021, 2022. Bylaws regarding appointments to the Board, elections to the Board and the Nominating Committee were ignored. When confronted by homeowners with the Board's errors, the Board incurred significant legal expenses in an unsuccessful defense of their own incorrect actions. Graham Management has incorrectly advised the Board to obtain expensive and unnecessary legal advice and to unnecessarily pay an attorney to prepare and file records with the County Clerk.

- Graham Management has not provided timely or efficient service to the community. Routine requests for services such as EZ-Tag access, meeting agendas and minutes have not been attended to in a timely manner. Routine requests for services go unanswered.
- Graham Management did not advise the current Board of the scheduling of the reserve study inspection ordered by the previous Board. Graham Management also did not supervise the reserve study and did not advise the Board when the vendor conducted the reserve study without adequate supervision or assistance of the Board. This resulted in several items being included in the study that should not have been and several items being left out of the study that should have been included.
- There are no records of any of the contractually required monthly inspections of facilities prior to January 2024. Both homeowners and the Board have requested documentation of these monthly inspections but have only received one record of a perfunctory and inadequate inspection.
- Telephones are often not answered at Graham Management and voice mail goes unanswered. Homeowners perceive Graham to be capricious and inconsistent in their application of the restrictive covenants. Violation letters are incomprehensible and do not sufficiently instruct homeowners in the requirements of addressing violations. Waived fees are slow to be removed. Graham also does not respond to events outside of their very limited business hours and holiday schedules.
- Reimbursement of expenses incurred by homeowners on behalf of the Board are not handled in a timely manner, are made payable to an incorrect name, sent to an incorrect address and often require direct Board intervention to compel these reimbursements
- It is apparent incompetent financial advice has caused the Board to overspend for years. The Board is now required to recognize that the continued financial mismanagement and continued concealment of financial records absolutely

prevents the Board from fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities to the association. The current situation absolutely requires that the contract with Graham be terminated and alternative competent management assistance be obtained.

2. The Board unanimously voted to move the normally scheduled monthly Board meeting to the 3rd Thursday of the month.

The Board made this move to allow adequate time to receive full financial data, compile financial reports and to allow the Board to read and understand the reports before the meeting. Our current meeting schedule does not allow us time to review and correct errors before the financials are disseminated.

Our next scheduled meeting will be held June 20th at the MUD (Windfern Forest Utility District) Building.

Friday, we gave Graham Management thirty-day notice that we intend to terminate our management contract. However, they are still being paid for the next thirty days and we expect them to do their job. Unfortunately, one of the reasons we are terminating their contract is they have not been doing their job well. That situation will probably prevail for the remaining thirty days.

Crest Management Company will be taking over from Graham. This process will not be quick nor seamless but we expect to have better, more timely service along with enhanced access to our financial data. We will notify homeowners of their contact information and process at the appropriate time.

For now, please do everything as you have been doing it. If you have problems, let us know about them by sending an email to **Ask the Board** on the Woodwind Lakes website, <http://www.woodwindlakeshoa.com/contact-us.html> and we will try to help.

Best Regards,

Woodwind Lakes HOA Board



Women's Club 2023-2024 Season Finale

Luncheon meeting was held at The Little Kitchen in Jersey Village



**2023-2024
Board Members:**
*Christina Smith, Treasurer
Ann Tatum, Secretary
Terri Corbitt, Vice-president
Terry Buckner, President*



**2024-2025
Board Members:**
*Sharon Siebern, Secretary
Ann Tatum, Vice-president
Lynn Collins, President
Sue Preston, Treasurer*



Lynne James: Most Valuable Member

Beating the bite: Navigating the threat of chiggers

Cheryl Conley, Lake Creek Preserve Board of Directors

Chiggers. They are almost impossible to see with the naked eye and can make your day in the woods very unpleasant. They can take itchiness to a whole new level and the discomfort can last for days. They eat skin cells and tissue and can create a nasty skin reaction. This is caused by their saliva. They bite and inject their saliva into the skin. The saliva breaks down the tissue and helps digest the cells and tissue. Humans are not the only species affected by these annoying little creatures. They also feed on domestic and wild animals, including birds, reptiles and some amphibians.

What exactly are chiggers?

They are the immature stage of mites belonging to the *Trombiculidae* family. These parasitic larvae live on or under

“
In all things of nature,
there is something of
the marvelous.”

waistbands, bra lines, behind the knees and groin area. They stay on your skin for one or two days and then drop off. Rarely does a single chigger attach itself to skin. They tend to latch in groups. If by chance a single chigger bites you, you may have difficulty distinguishing it from a mosquito bite. After dropping off, they develop into nymphs and adults and are no longer parasitic.



the skin of warm-blooded animals. They attach to your clothing and move to areas where your skin and clothing have close contact. Examples of their favorite places are sock lines,

There are several species of chiggers in Texas but there are only two that are biters. They are found in overgrown grasses and weeds in forests, orchards, parks, along lakes and streams and even in vacant lots with overgrown grass and weeds. They are less common in maintained landscapes.

Some ways to protect yourself

You can protect yourself against chiggers. Although it gets extremely hot in our area, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Wear shoes or boots—no flip flops or open-toed sandals. Tuck your pants in your boots and keep your cuffs and collars buttoned. Use insect repellents that contain DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide or diethyltoluamide). You should apply this not only to your skin but also around the tops of your boots, around the cuffs and waistband. Another option for clothing are products that contain permethrin (like Permanone Tick Repellent). These products are for clothing only and cannot be applied to your skin.

Helping to heal a chigger bite

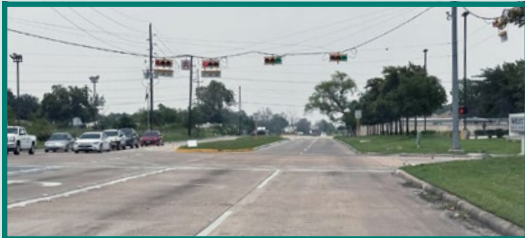
Everyone responds differently to bug bites but here are some suggestions that may help if you've been exposed to chiggers. As soon as you get home, take a warm, sudsy shower or bath. Vigorously scrub your skin which will dislodge any mites that have lodged on you. Try some anti-itch cream on the bites. Oral antihistamines such as Benadryl also work well. I know it's hard but try not to scratch especially if the bite has formed a pustule. Scratching may open the bite and cause an infection.

Chigger bites should heal on their own but if you're still suffering after a couple of days, go see your doctor.

Don't let this nasty little bug keep you from enjoying nature. Get outside, soak up the sun, listen to the birds and relax. In the words of Aristotle, "In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous."

Gessner connection is now a Go!

You may already know by now, but Gessner is fully opened. Travelling from West Road down to Fallbrook (and on up to Costco and Willowbrook Mall) is a breeze – for now. These photos were taken recently and show there is not much development yet. Undoubtedly it will become well driven and built up as commuters take advantage of it as an alternative to the Beltway and Windfern.

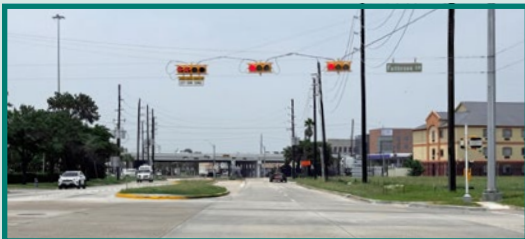


Gessner at West Road heading north



A stoplight now where Windfern crosses Gessner

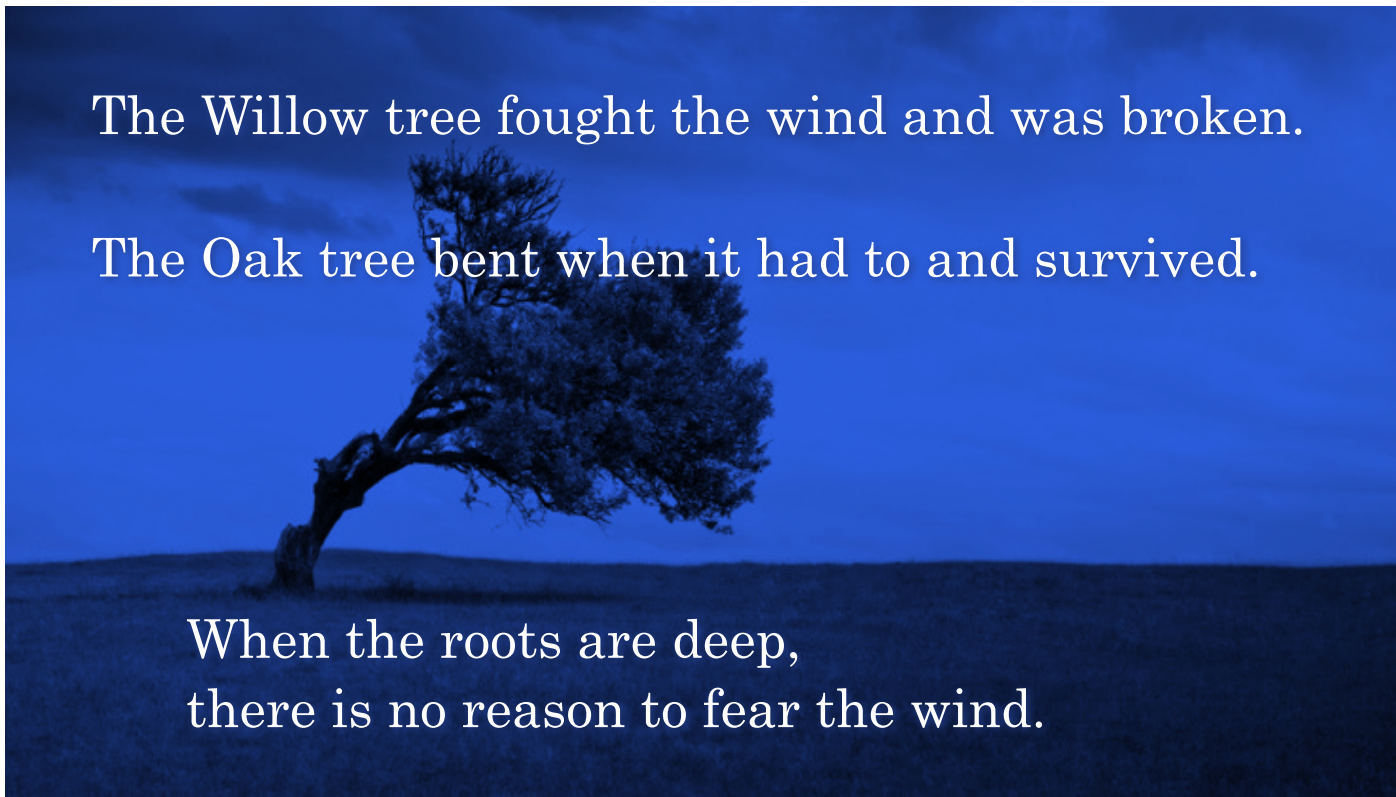
It seems quite odd that Windfern starts east of Gessner and ends up west of Gessner.



Last of the newly opened section at Fallbrook



Gessner now runs from South Main in southwest Houston all the way up to Willowbrook Mall in northwest Houston!



The Willow tree fought the wind and was broken.
The Oak tree bent when it had to and survived.

When the roots are deep,
there is no reason to fear the wind.

Saltmarsh Caterpillars

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Saltmarsh caterpillars seem to be a common sight in gardens, lawns and traveling across roads and sidewalks. These caterpillars are a particular species, *Estigmene acrea*, and turn into saltmarsh moths. They are often mistakenly called “woollybears” which are a different species, *Pyrrharctia isabella*, that turn into Isabella tiger moths. The two species are related and in the same family Erebidae.

You've seen them crossing the road

Saltmarsh caterpillars actively disperse and late instar larvae can be seen moving quickly across lawns, landscape beds, sidewalks, roads and other locations. These caterpillars can move easily into areas and begin to feed on plants. Their chewing mouthparts cause damage to plants by defoliation. They have a wide host range feeding on numerous broadleaf plants including trees, shrubs, crops and others.

Adult saltmarsh moths are medium sized and have white forewings with black dots. Hindwings are white in females and peachy yellow in males. The adult's head and thorax are white and abdomen is peachy yellow with black oblong spots.

Pupae occur in the soil or in leaf litter. Caterpillars spin a cocoon using silk and hairs from the body. There are multiple generations each year in Texas.

Saltmarsh caterpillar
upclose and personal
(Larger than actual size)



If I see one in my yard, now what?

Management can be as simple as removing caterpillars by hand but wear gloves while doing so. In backyard gardens, this typically is a feasible method of control. Pesticides such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, spinosad or botanicals can be used against smaller stages of caterpillars (these are not as hairy as the late instars) but will not kill off late instar larvae.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at ebrown@ag.tamu.edu.

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Seriously?

We don't have salt marshes around here, so what's going on?

Saltmarsh caterpillar's peculiar common name is derived from their initial description as a pest of salt-grass hay grown in the vicinity of Boston. They are actually a native insect found throughout the United States. Their distribution extends to Central America, and in Canada it has damaged crops in Ontario and Quebec. As a pest, it is most common in the southern United States, particularly the Southwest.

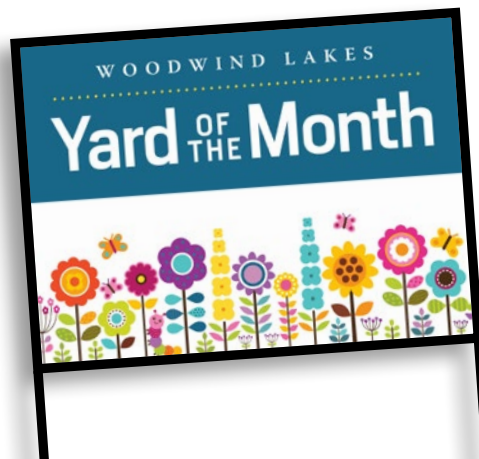


They are more obvious in their caterpillar stage, but they eventually turn into this saltmarsh moth. Their wingspan is approximately 1.5 inches wide.

June Yard of the Month winners



Congratulations!



MONARCH LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Woodwind Lakes Monthly Services Update

**May completed events**

- Irrigation inspection (comp 5/13)
- Site audit
- 2nd Mulch follow up (comp 5/13) by hand where truck cannot reach
- Section 4 plant fill in (comp 5/13)
- Dead plant roots removal on Woodwind Blvd. No charge (comp 5/17)

June upcoming events

- Irrigation inspection (TBS)
- Site audit
- Turf fertilization w/PM (sch 6/4 and 6/5)
- Shrub and groundcover fertilization w/InD (TBS)
- Seasonal color change out tentatively scheduled 7/16
Need board approval.

Details we are focusing on this month

- Cleaning dead out of smaller Grape Myrtle heads
- Setback trimming on Windfern and Philippine
- Hard pruning Nandina on site at signage





HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

CONSTABLE MARK HERMAN

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Monthly Contract Stats

WOODWIND LAKES

For May 2024

Categories

Burglary Habitation: 0	Burglary Vehicle: 0	Theft Habitation: 0
Theft Vehicle: 0	Theft Other: 0	Robbery: 0
Assault: 0	Sexual Assault: 0	Criminal Mischief: 0
Disturbance Family: 0	Disturbance Juvenile: 0	Disturbance Other: 0
Alarms: 4	Suspicious Vehicles: 0	Suspicious Persons: 2
Runaways: 0	Phone Harrassment: 0	Other Calls: 30

Detailed Statistics By Deputy

Unit Number	Contract Calls	District Calls	Reports Taken	Felony Arrests	Misd Arrests	Tickets Issued	Recovered Property	Charges Filed	Mileage Driven	Days Worked
S22	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	20	1
W14	26	45	8	0	0	21	0	2	1105	20
W15	60	63	12	0	2	23	1800	0	1097	22
TOTAL	86	109	20	0	2	48	1800	2	2222	43

Summary of Events

OTHER CALLS:

9100 RHAPSODY LN- A known female complainant stated that an unknown Asian male suspect was trespassing on her property and causing a disturbance.

Alarms:

Deputies responded to 4 residential alarms that were all cleared as false or cancelled.

Suspicious Vehicles:

Deputies responded to a 0 suspicious vehicle calls that were all cleared as GOA or information.

Suspicious Persons:

Deputies responded to 2 suspicious person calls that were all cleared as GOA or information.

Deputies conducted multiple traffic stops and issued multiple citations within the contract reducing the possibility of accidents.

Deputies conducted multiple contract, neighborhood and business checks within the contract increasing visibility while performing regular patrol duties.

Deputies responded to 30 other calls within the contract including:

Motor Vehicle Accidents	Follow Up Investigations	Stranded Motorist
Animal Humane	Information Calls	Traffic Hazard
Child Custody Disputes	Meet The Officer	Unknown Medical Emergency
Domestic Preventions	Lost Found Property	Abandoned/Speeding Vehicles
D.W.I.	Sex Offender Verification	Welfare Checks