



Woodwind Lakes

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

Ten traits of successful HOA board members

What qualities must you have to be a good homeowner's association board member? Here, experts reveal the top ten traits of board members who serve their HOA well.

You will have an opportunity to elect board members in October 2023.

1. Be understanding

You can't run a homeowner's association well without digging into the details. This requires hard work and commitment. Board members have to take the time to review and understand their governing documents.

2. Be consistent

It's important to be consistent, especially in enforcement of the regulations. Homeowners are much more likely to stay within the rules if they know their board will consistently enforce them.

3. Be fair

Enforce the rules and regulations fairly across all residents including friends or board directors.

4. Be honest

You need to be honest and understand how to avoid the appearance of impropriety. You also need to be law-abiding. Association management is a regulated industry where you have laws, covenants and restrictions, so you must be of the mindset you understand there are constraints. You must be flexible as well; you may not agree with the law or a rule but you need to abide by it.

5. Ask for help

You need an understanding of when it's effective to consult an appropriate professional like an engineer, accountant or attorney. Due to the technical nature of the problems boards can face, the association would benefit from the unique perspective of someone trained in the discipline they're trying to address.

One thing a board must be able to do is listen to the experts. You wear a lot of hats as a board member but there's a time to

pass the hat and insulate yourself from liability and do your association a service by listening to what an expert in the field has to say.

6. Delegate

Board members should be comfortable delegating certain tasks, like matters to an architectural review committee, as opposed to having the board handle everything and manage every detail.

7. Openness and conciliation

Be open to the association's members. Listen to them and to your fellow board members.

8. Share

A lot of times board members will keep information close to their vest. That's not what running an association is about. It's not a competition over who can keep information. It's about sharing information so everybody can make the right decision or understand the decisions the board is making.

9. Adapt and change

A good board isn't afraid of technology. The notion of setting up a website sometimes just intimidates the heck out of boards. This goes to technology in all its forms, like keeping residents informed and making it easier for homeowners to vote using technology.

10. Have a thick skin

You must be able to not take things personally. You must also realize your association is first and foremost a community but it's also a business and a government. The worst association directors are people who take it personally.

WOMEN'S CLUB

Meet n' Greet

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 | 10am – 12pm

Windfern Forest MUD Building, 14410 Mauna Loa (Gessner at Mauna Loa)

Join us for the 1st meeting of a new Women's Club season

Come eat, drink and be merry!

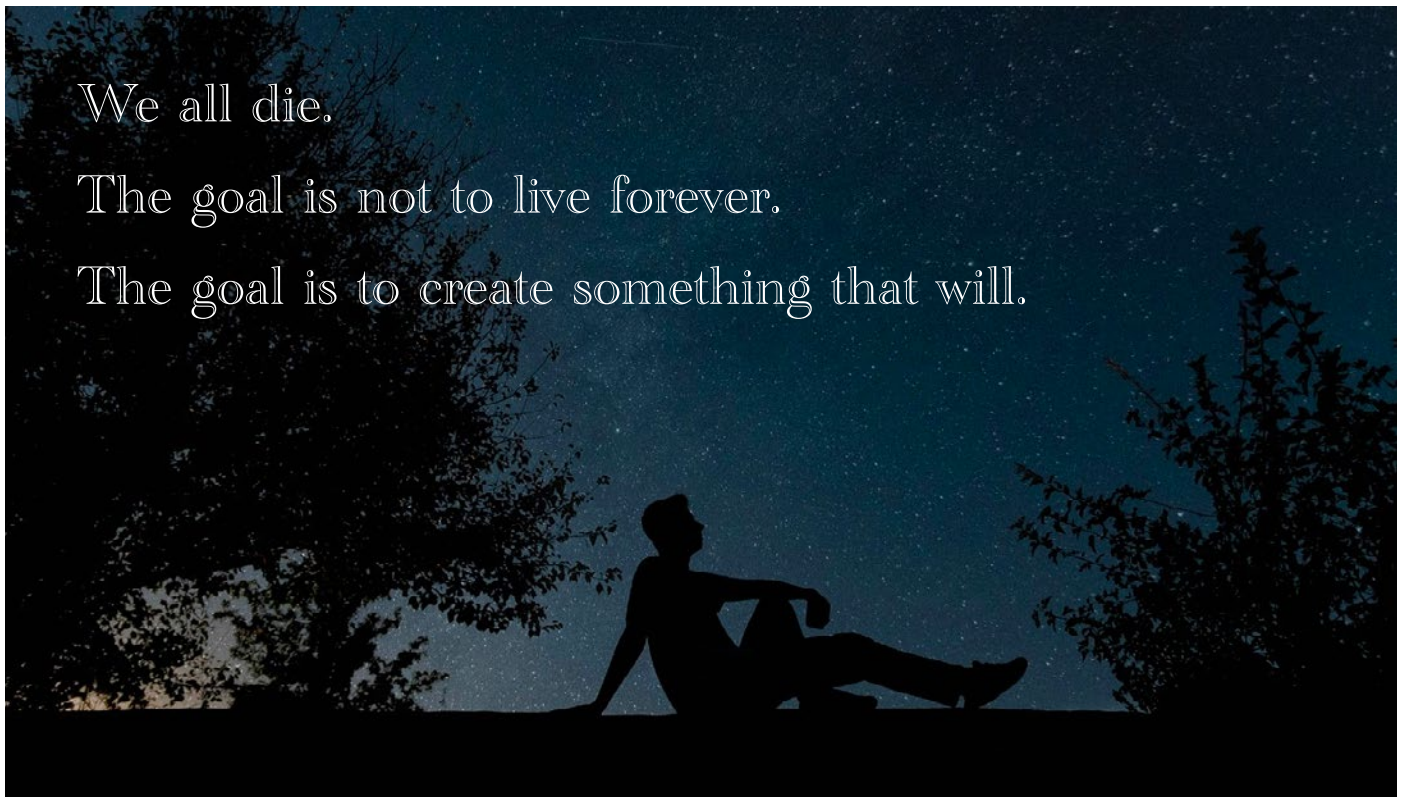
For more information contact:

- Terry Buckner, President..... terry214@live.com
- Terri Corbitt, Vice President..... rcorb1225@hotmail.com
- Ann Tatum, Secretary..... anntatum9203@gmail.com
- Christina Smith, Treasurer..... hssacademy@comcast.net

We all die.

The goal is not to live forever.

The goal is to create something that will.



A little chicken on the prairie

Cheryl Conley, Lake Creek Preserve Board of Directors

They once ranged across coastal Texas and Louisiana and are one of the rarest and strangest species of birds in the country. There were once close to one million of them. There are now fewer than 200 left in the wild. They are one of the most endangered birds in the USA. Can you guess what it is? It's Attwater's Prairie Chicken. So what happened? The reasons for their decline are the loss of their habitat, habitat fragmentation, overhunting and imported red fire ants.

Life on the prairie

Named after British-born naturalist Henry Attwater, the Attwater's Prairie Chicken is actually a member of the North American grouse family. In the wild, they require both short and tall grasses. During mating season, males will gather in an area of bare ground or short grasses called "leks." Here they are very visible to the females. Males inflate their air sacs, raise their tails, droop their wings and stomp their feet while "dancing" around. It is believed that the mating dances were the inspiration for many of the dances performed by the

Native American tribes of coastal Texas and Louisiana. Very dense, tall grasses are required for nest-building. Hens will lay between 10 and 14 eggs that will hatch in about 26 days. Because of predators, only 3 in 10 eggs hatch.

The effort to save them

Although they're endangered and there's only around 200 left in the wild, there is hope. There is a recovery effort in place to ensure that the bird will recover. A team of researchers and wildlife experts from across the country has been assembled to guide the recovery. Here are some of those participating:

- The US Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Nature Conservancy
Texas City Prairie Preserve
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Texas A&M
- Fossil Rim Wildlife Center –
Attwater's Prairie Chicken
- Houston Zoo
- San Antonio Zoo
- Sea World – San Antonio

Located just 60 miles west of Houston is the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. It is home to one of the largest remaining areas of native coastal prairie in southeast Texas, the habitat required for the survival of the prairie chicken.

Hope for their future

The best hope for saving the birds is through captive breeding. The very first chicks hatched through captive breeding took place in 1992 at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, Texas. Since then, several more zoos and institutions have joined in the effort. Once the captive birds are old enough to survive on their own, they are fitted with a radio transmitter and taken to specific release sites. They live in pens for about two weeks while they adjust and then they are released. The transmitters allow biologists and experts to monitor their movements and survival.

It's always a sad day when an animal goes on the endangered species list but Attwater's Prairie Chicken may be one that is able to come off the list someday. Let's hope!



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Visiting the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge

From Houston

Travel west on I-10 and take Exit 721 towards Sealy.

Take Hwy 36 south then right onto FM 3013 W and continue for 10 miles.

Turn at the big blue sign onto Attwater Road (APC NWR Rd) and continue two miles following the signs to the refuge headquarters.

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/attwater-prairie-chicken>



WOODWIND LAKES FALL 2023 GARAGE SALE

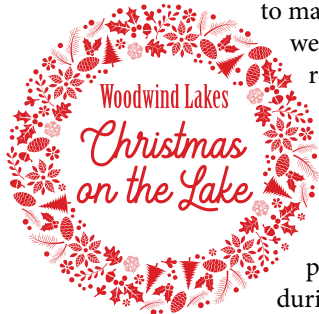
Saturday, October 14

Starts at 7:00 am

Make your plans to participate in the Fall Woodwind Lakes Garage Sale. If you need a sign, signs may be purchased from Gail Ford for \$10 cash beginning Monday, October 9th at 7614 Rolling Rock Street.

Christmas Committee kick-off meeting

Please join us and help plan this year's Christmas On The Lake celebration. This wonderful event requires a lot of "manpower" to make it successful. We welcome and encourage residents who have the time to get involved to come to our meeting. There are plenty of ways you can help both in preparation for and during the event.



When: September 27

What time: 6:15 pm

**Where: At the home of Terry Buckner
9207 Brahms Lane**

**Christmas On The Lake will be held
December 2, 2023 from 4pm to 8pm at the
Family Pool, 9015 Woodwind Lakes Drive at Ensemble.**

**If you can help, contribute in any way, or attend our meeting,
please contact our Christmas Committee Chairperson,
Terry Buckner, at terry214@live.com.**



This is Woodwind Lakes so you know the planning part is fun, too!



Notes from the **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Safety tips for our neighborhood

The Safety Committee would like to remind everyone of the important safety tips that were shared by our constables at our May Meet and Greet.

First and foremost, it's important to know that no matter what precinct you live in, the constable for all sections of Woodwind Lakes is Precinct 4. Any and all criminal activity or suspicion of criminal activity should be reported to Precinct 4 directly at 281-376-3472. Calling 911 slows response time as all 911 calls must be re-routed to the constable. **Additionally**, after an incident has occurred, please make a report. This will increase constable presence in our neighborhood and more accurately reflect the stats in our area.



Call the constable directly to report any criminal activity or suspicion of criminal activity at 281-376-3472.

Another important tip is to download the Precinct 4 app **C4Now!** to your phone. Some of the things that can be reported on the app are:

- Extra Patrol Request (such as asking for a patrol car to monitor a particular stop sign that is constantly ignored),
- Traffic Complaint (such as speeding or racing) and
- Vacation Watch Request (for when you are out of town).



Download the Constable app C4Now! to your phone and become familiar with what it can do for you.

The constables are a great resource for us. We should not hesitate to call them if we need anything at all. The security committee hopes to have another constable Meet and Greet in the fall. We will keep everyone posted.

The safety committee was formed by the HOA. The liaison board member is Chad Overton. The committee chair is Bob Weber. If any neighbor would like to join the committee, please contact Bob Weber at rjweber@psrg.com.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Safety Committee is planning a National Night Out (NNO) event for our community on **Tuesday, October 3rd from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**. Please mark your calendar! More details to follow.

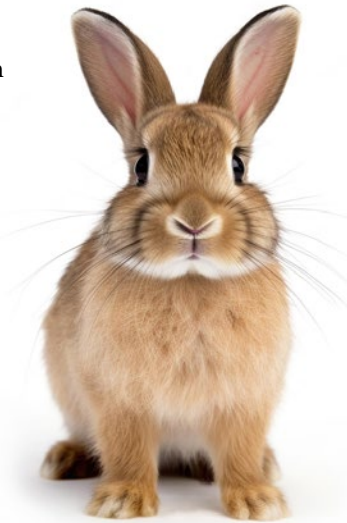
This year we are welcoming WWL vendors to our event. If interested, contact Dana Patterson at danadunnp@gmail.com for a free spot. As we are still in the planning stages, we will post updates as we get closer to the date. Stay tuned! Plans include a food truck and some fun games.



A plant diet can boost your health and be delicious!

Research shows that flexitarians, those who make plant foods the star of their diet, with meat, fish, dairy and eggs playing a supporting role, are healthier than frequent meat eaters. Some of the possible benefits of this diet are:

- Decrease the risk of heart disease
- Decrease the risk of diabetes
- Decrease the risk of certain cancers
- Help maintain a healthy weight
- Lower the risk of inflammatory diseases
- Help improve cholesterol levels
- Help improve blood pressure



“When you base your meals on plant foods, you’re packing your diet with the fiber, vitamins, minerals and healthy fats that most Americans don’t get enough of.”

“A Harvard study that tracked more than 120,000 people for 30 years found that those who ate the most meat tended to die younger during the study period but that swapping just one daily serving of beef for nuts could cut the risk of dying early by as much as 19 percent. One possible reason for those benefits is that a plant-based diet can improve blood lipid levels.”

Take care, Donna Kelley Konopka

Information courtesy of WebMD and Consumer Reports

ME, EAT RABBIT FOOD? OF COURSE! AND YOU CAN, TOO.

A “less meat, more plants” style of eating can also improve the quality of your life. Here are a few ideas if this is something you want to consider.

BREAKFAST



Avocado toast – two slices of whole grain bread, mashed avocado, red pepper flakes, sea salt and coffee with coconut milk creamer.

LUNCH



Quinoa tabbouleh with chickpeas – Cooked quinoa, chopped tomatoes, chopped cucumber, chopped parsley, olive oil, lemon juice, black olives and garbanzo beans.

DINNER



Black-bean tacos – Corn tortillas, black beans, roasted cauliflower, jarred corn salsa, pico de gallo, cumin and salad greens.

DESSERT



Frozen banana “ice cream” – Blend a frozen banana in a blender with a touch of almond milk until it resembles soft serve then top with chopped walnuts.

Pillbugs (aka roly-polys)

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Pillbugs or roly-polys are crustaceans, more closely related to crayfish and shrimp than insects. Crustaceans usually live in aquatic environments but pillbugs are terrestrial. Even though pillbugs live on land, they still require moist environments for survival. Pillbugs do not bite, sting, transmit diseases or cause physical damage to the home or its contents.

Pillbugs are ¼-½" with dark grey coloring. Their oval bodies are convex above and either flat or concave underneath. Pillbugs have seven pairs of legs and two pairs of antennae and roll up into a ball when disturbed.

Basically harmless and beneficial

Pillbugs are beneficial in the landscape as decomposers, feeding mainly on decaying organic matter. They may occasionally feed on young, tender plants but damage is typically not significant. They can be found under mulch, leaf litter, flowerpots, compost, stones or other items resting on the ground.

Pillbugs may invade crawl spaces and homes at ground level with common points of entry being door thresholds and expansion joints. When critters are seen indoors, there is usually a large population breeding outside of



the home near the foundation. Since pillbugs require moisture, they do not survive indoors for more than a few days unless there are very moist or damp conditions.

If you do need to control them

To manage infestations inside the home, rely on sanitation and exclusion techniques. Repair or replace door thresholds and seal expansion joints where pillbugs may be entering the structure. Pesticides are not usually needed indoors to manage these occasional invaders. They soon die on their own from lack of moisture and can be swept up using a broom and dustpan or a vacuum.

Outdoors, move any piles of debris away from the foundation of the home. If there are high numbers in and around

landscape beds, turn mulch to allow it dry out, making the area uninhabitable. Any leaky faucets, irrigation lines or air conditioning units should be repaired to eliminate moisture buildup. You may choose a pesticide to treat mulched areas or other areas that harbor large pillbug populations. Look for products labeled for pillbugs, sowbugs or isopods.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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TINY ARMORED CREATURES

The common name "pillbug" comes from their tendency to roll up into a ball when threatened.

The pillbug is the only crustacean that lives entirely on land.

If a pillbug loses one of its legs, it will grow back.

Pillbugs have the unique ability of curling up into a ball. This behavior is called conglobation.

Pill bugs are not known to pose any threats to humans. They don't contaminate food or spread diseases.

They don't bite, sting, poke or pinch, and instead of running away, they form an easy-to-pick-up, hard ball when you touch them.



September Yard of the Month winners

SECTION 1



8003 SONATA COURT

SECTION 2



9122 RHAPSODY LANE

SECTION 3



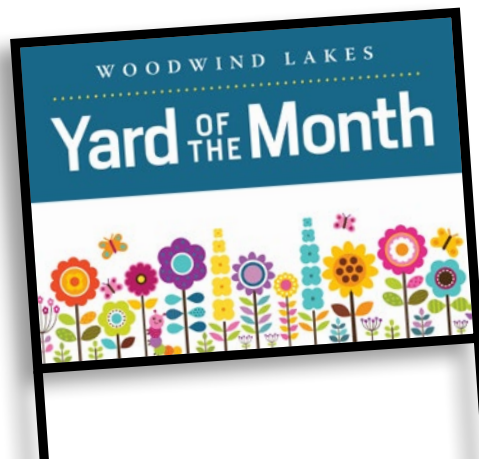
8634 GOLDEN CHORD CIRCLE

SECTION 4



8107 RONDO COURT

Congratulations!





HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4

CONSTABLE MARK HERMAN

"Proudly Serving the Citizens of Precinct 4"

6831 Cypresswood Drive ★ Spring, Texas 77379 ★ (281) 376-3472 ★ www.ConstablePct4.com

Monthly Contract Stats

WOODWIND LAKES

For August 2023

Categories

Burglary Habitation: 0	Burglary Vehicle: 2	Theft Habitation: 0
Theft Vehicle: 0	Theft Other: 2	Robbery: 0
Assault: 0	Sexual Assault: 0	Criminal Mischief: 0
Disturbance Family: 0	Disturbance Juvenile: 0	Disturbance Other: 1
Alarms: 5	Suspicious Vehicles: 2	Suspicious Persons: 1
Runaways: 0	Phone Harrassment: 0	Other Calls: 31

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
W14	26	82	10	0	1	23	0	1	1341	19
W15	61	41	11	0	0	28	8000	0	1030	20
TOTAL	87	123	21	0	1	51	8000	1	2371	39

Summary of Events

BURGLARY MOTOR VEHICLE:

9200 CYMBAL CT- A known male complainant stated that sometime during the nighttime hours, an unknown suspect(s) made an unlawful entry into his vehicle and stole property from within.

9200 BRAHMS LN- A known male complainant stated that sometime during the nighttime hours, an unknown suspect(s) made an unlawful entry into his vehicle and stole property from within.

THEFT OTHER:

7700 CADENZA CT- A known male complainant stated that an unknown suspect(s) stole property out his utility type trailer.

OTHER CALLS:

7700 MELODY CIR- A known male complainant stated that an unknown suspect(s) stole mail from his mailbox.

Alarms:

Deputies responded to 5 residential alarms that were all cleared as false or cancelled.

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

Suspicious Persons:

Deputies responded to 1 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 31 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