

# Woodwind Lakes

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

## The 2024 primary elections are approaching

FEBRUARY 29 IS COMING SOON and we all know what that means – yes, we are having a leap year. It also means that there will be an election in November for who will be the next President of the United States. It has always been important to have our voices heard in who the next candidates for the Presidency should be. You often hear it said that “*this is the most important election of our time.*” Lately, it seems like they all are. With that being said, here is some information that will help you be part of the process.



### Below are some important dates for the upcoming primary elections

*Note: The following information comes from the website of the Harris County Clerk's Office.*

#### The actual primary date is March 5, but there are other ways to vote.

**BY MAIL** The deadline to apply for a mail ballot is February 23. Click [here](#) for the application. Please fill it out, print it, and mail it to the Clerk's office before the deadline.

**EARLY VOTING IN PERSON** Early Vote Centers will be open from Tuesday, February 20, through Friday, March 1. (7 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 12 noon–7 p.m. on Sunday).

**IN PERSON ELECTION DAY** Vote Centers will accept voters from 7 a.m.–7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, March 5.

#### Where are the Early Voting locations?

Voters are no longer restricted to an assigned Vote Center and can choose from any Vote Center in Harris County. Click here for [early voting locations](#).

#### Want to know what's on your ballot?

As you know, there are two primaries: one for the Democratic Party and one for the Republican Party.

Visit the [“What's on my ballot?”](#) page and enter your name or address to see all the contests and candidates you are eligible to vote on. (*You can bring handwritten notes or printed sample ballots to the voting booth; just be sure to take them with you when you leave.*)

#### Have you ever thought of becoming a poll worker?

It's never too early to help democracy! By signing up to be a poll worker, you can ensure that all voters—including voters with disabilities, voters who need language assistance, and voters who want to cast their ballot in person—have a positive experience at the polls. For more information click this link. Sign up today!

[Election Worker](#)

#### Links to some useful pages on the County Clerk's website

##### UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Unofficial election results for each primary can be found on the county website as they become available on the evening of Primary Election day.

[Democratic results](#)

[Republican results](#)

[VOTING FAQS](#)



# When is having fun an illusion?

*The women who attended the January Women's Club meeting at the Museum of Illusions found out!*



*Of course having fun only gets better when you go out to eat afterwards at Kenny & Ziggy's New York Delicatessen.*



# Little Ladies

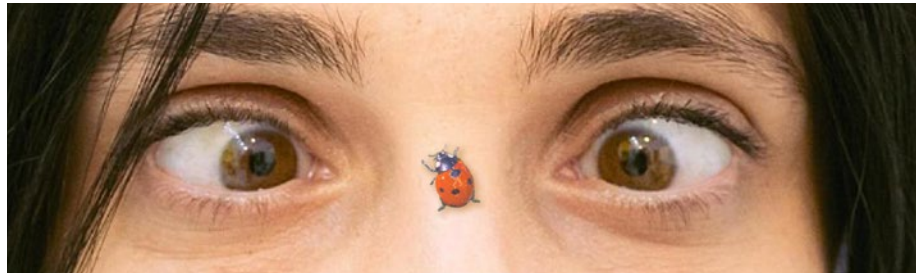
As a child, I enjoyed having Ladybugs crawl on my hand. I'd try to count the black spots. Women in the Victorian era believed if a ladybug landed on them, they would get something new. If it landed on their head, they thought they would receive a new hat. On the hand, it would be new gloves. Today some believe that if a Ladybug lands on you, your wishes will come true.

In North America, we call them Ladybugs. In Britain and other English-speaking countries, they are called Ladybirds. Ladybugs aren't really bugs. Bugs belong to the order *Hemiptera*. Ladybugs are part of *Coleoptera*, the Beetle order. These little beetles have an insatiable appetite. That's a good thing for those of you who garden because they eat the insects that invade your plants like aphids, whiteflies and other destructive bugs.

## They don't all look alike

Most of us are probably used to seeing the orange Ladybug with black spots but they come in a wide range of other colors as well—gray, tan, metallic blue. The number of spots can vary as well and some have no spots at all.

Even though they are small, they still have a defense mechanism to protect themselves from predators. When the insects are disturbed, they emit an odorous, noxious yellow fluid that seeps out of their joints.



## Watch out for the "Evil Twin"

Did you know, though, there are "bad" Ladybugs? Asian Lady Beetles were first discovered in the United States in 1988 and are known as the Ladybugs' evil twin. They also devour aphids so in that regard, they are beneficial. Their hefty appetites can extend to non-pest insects



*This is an Asian Lady Beetle. Not always our friend even though they closely resemble our familiar Ladybug. They can be harmful to dogs and are even known to bite humans. Notice the white "W" behind the head.*

as well like monarch butterfly eggs and larvae and that's not good.

Asian Lady Beetles can bite. The bites are not poisonous or extremely painful but in some cases can cause "pink-eye." In the fall or winter, if you notice large numbers of what you believe are ladybugs congregating around your home, they're probably Asian Lady Beetles. When it begins to get cold, they will attempt to enter your home and can stain walls, furniture and fabrics with the stinky yellow fluid they secrete.

Asian Lady Beetles can be harmful to dogs. When a dog in Kansas started sleeping all the time, refused to eat and was foaming at the mouth, the veterinarian discovered over 30 Asian Lady Beetles had attached themselves to the roof of the mouth.

## Spotting the difference

So how do you tell the difference between the good Ladybug and the evil twin, the Asian Lady Beetle? Look at the markings on their head. From above, Asian lady beetles have a white "M"-shaped spot where their head meets the body.

As part of our mission, we strive to educate you about environmental issues that may affect your lives.

The Ladybug acts as a natural pesticide in nature and can be easily purchased online. Utilizing this unique feature of the Ladybug can discourage the use of dangerous pesticides that are harmful to all living things.



*This is our familiar Ladybug.*

Cheryl Conley  
Lake Creek Preserve  
Board of Directors

## WOMEN'S CLUB

*Tuesday, February 13***BINGO****10:00 am****Windfern Forest MUD Building | 14410 Gessner at Mauna Loa****For more information or to RSVP contact Ann Tatum:****[anntatum9203@gmail.com](mailto:anntatum9203@gmail.com)***Hope we see you there!**Nothing endures but change. Change is the only constant in life.*

Just when the caterpillar thought its life was over, it became a butterfly.

Perhaps the butterfly is proof we can go through a great deal of darkness yet become something special.





# The exoskeleton *(the part of an insect that goes c-r-u-n-c-h)*

Insects and other arthropods have an exoskeleton, which means their “bones” are on the outside of their body. The exoskeleton serves as a protective covering, helps prevent desiccation, allows muscles to attach to it from the inside for movement and provides sensory information.

**exoskeleton**, exo-skel-e-ton, ek-sō-skel-et-en, *n.*: a hard supporting or protective structure (as of an insect, spider, or crustacean) on the outside of the body.

## It's made up of four layers

The exoskeleton is made up of four layers: epicuticle, procuticle, epidermis and basement membrane.

1

The outermost layer, the epicuticle, serves as a barrier to the outside environment and helps the insect avoid desiccation or drying out. If you have ever used diatomaceous earth for insect management, you are hoping to abrade the epicuticle of the insect with the diatomaceous earth and cause enough water loss for the insect to die.

2

The next layer, the procuticle, is for strength. The procuticle is made of chitin, which is secreted by the underlying third layer, the epidermis. The cuticle is soft when it

is first secreted but undergoes a process called sclerotization, which allows for hardening and darkening of the exoskeleton. The procuticle is divided into two components, the exocuticle and endocuticle. The endocuticle is tough but flexible while the exocuticle is where thickening occurs to provide a more rigid, armored structure. With soft-bodied insects, such as termites, aphids, or caterpillars, the exocuticle layer is greatly reduced.

3

The epidermis is a layer of living cells that secrete chitin that is used to create the layer above, the procuticle. Any sensory hairs, called setae, that an insect has on its body originate in the epidermis and sensory information travels through the hair on the outside of the insect's body to nerves found in the epidermis.

4

The innermost layer is the basement membrane which is a support for the epidermis and a separation from the insect body cavity.

## Plates and what they do

All these layers together make up the insect exoskeleton. The exoskeleton is comprised of hardened plates called sclerites. The composition of plate structure allows the insect to have segmented joints and bodies which allows for movement. Each segment



## HUMAN SKELETON BONES

Water makes up 31% of the weight of your bones.

Your bones are four times more powerful than concrete pound for pound!

*Although humans do not have exoskeletons, their fingernails and toenails are made of the same protein called chitin. On humans, it provides a protective covering over the tips of the phalanges, the scientific name for the bones of the fingers and toes. It protects the tips of these bones from breaking.*

has various thickness of sclerites related to the movement and/or protection required in that given area of the body. Furthermore, the exoskeleton has various areas that are folded inward, called apodemes, allowing for more surface area of the exoskeleton in that particular region and creating a strengthened area where muscles can attach on the inside of the body.

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

*This work is supported in part by the Crop Protection and Pest Management, Extension Implementation Program [award no. 2021- 70006-35347/project accession no. 1027036] from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture.*

## EXAMPLES OF ANIMALS WITH EXOSKELETONS



Grasshoppers



Cockroaches



Ants



Bees



Scorpions



Cicadas



Lobsters



Shrimp



Black Widows



Snails

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## MONARCH LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

# Woodwind Lakes Monthly Services Update

**January completed events**

- Irrigation inspection (comp 1/10)
- Site audit
- Weathermatic irrigation conversion smart technology (comp 1/18)
- Ant control application (comp 1/18)

**Upcoming events**

- Irrigation inspection (sch 2/29)
- Site audit
- Grape Myrtle trimming (sch 2/1)
- Replace one missing valve box cover on Lake 3 entry (sch 2/1) no charge

**Details we are focusing on this month**

- Heavy leaf drop pickup
- Remove fallen branches and sticks around lakes in natural areas in phases that we can manage
- Lake top drainage swale cleaning
- Continue debris pick up on setbacks in phases

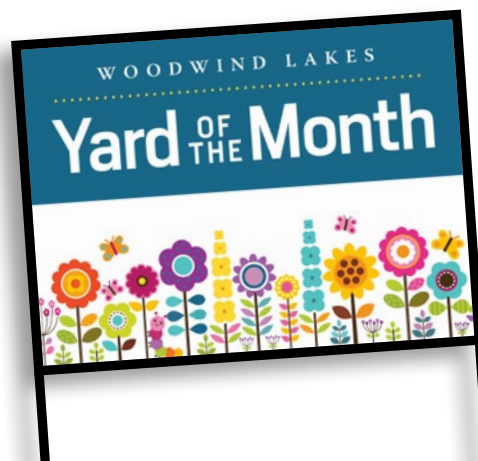




# January Yard of the Month winners

**SECTION 1****9118 BRAHMS LANE****SECTION 2****7735 MELODY CIRCLE****SECTION 3****8707 GOLDEN CHORD CIRCLE****SECTION 4****8111 CLARION WAY**

*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 January 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: 1	Disturbance Juvenile: 0	Disturbance Other: 1
Alarms: 3	Suspicious Vehicles: 2	Suspicious Persons: 1
Runaways: 0	Phone Harrassment: 0	Other Calls: 26

### 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
K12	1	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	410	9
W14	12	18	10	0	0	12	0	4	727	9
W15	50	29	6	0	2	28	0	1	910	18
TOTAL	63	53	16	0	2	45	0	5	2047	36

### Summary of Events

#### FAMILY DISTURBANCE:

9100 SYMPHONIC LN- A known male complainant stated that a known female was at the residence causing a disturbance.

#### OTHER CALLS:

7800 ALLEGRO DR- Deputy responded to a two car minor crash that occurred at said location. A vehicle travelling northbound on the 7800 block of Allegro Dr struck the complainants parked vehicle.

#### Alarms:

Deputies responded to 3 residential alarms that were all cleared as false or cancelled.

#### Suspicious Vehicles:

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 26 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 Emerg
Domestic Preventions	Lost Found Property	Abandoned/Speeding Vel
D.W.I.	Sex Offender Verification	Welfare Checks