

Woodwind Lakes

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022



2022 Halloween Decorating Contest

Happy October Woodwind Lakes! In the spirit of community and fun, both the HOA and Families of Woodwind Lakes have come together to sponsor a Halloween House/Yard Decorating contest. Your entry can be scary or family friendly. To enter, have your yard completed and decorated by October 25. Judging will occur between October 25 through October 27 from 6pm-9pm. Prizes will be given for 1st place in each of the four sections of Woodwind Lakes. Winners will be announced in the newsletter and prizes will be delivered by November 5.

Enjoy decorating and be sure to check out the entire neighborhood before November 1! Questions? Email: greg.dana.patterson@gmail.com



See page 6 for another Fun Fall Event!

Christmas Committee Meeting

The Woodwind Lakes Christmas Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 12 at 6:15pm in the home of Terry Buckner, 9207 Brahms Lane. If you are interested in joining our committee or helping out in any way, please join us. We are still in need of volunteers and welcome all the help we can get – even if it's just for an hour or two on the night of the event.

If you would like to volunteer but cannot attend the meeting, please contact either Lynn Collins at Lynn.Collins@GaryGreene.com or Terry Buckner at terry214@live.com. It's a great way to give back to your community and demonstrate to your kids one of the ways you can be a good neighbor. Not to mention have fun and meet new friends!

See important notice on page 4 about last day to order poinsettias!





WOODWIND LAKES FALL 2022 GARAGE SALE

Saturday, October 15

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 10th at 7614 Rolling Rock Street.

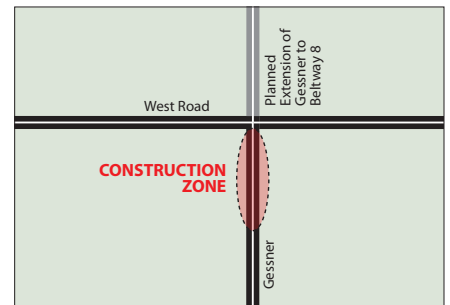


It's
almost
time.
GET READY!

Gessner and West Road construction *By Ellen Michaels*

I was frustrated and confused as to why the work at the intersection of Gessner and West Roads was started at the beginning of this year and then abandoned. I sent an email to Commissioner Jack Cagle who was our rep before redistricting took place. They forwarded my query to our new

commissioner, Rodney Ellis. Some bit of time went by so I sent Ellis' office another email about this abandoned project as well as the bike path that is supposed to run from downtown to Cypress. It, too, has been abandoned. Below is their response.



From: "Lopez, Cristina (Commissioner Pct 1)"
Subject: West Road and Gessner Road Work
Date: September 19, 2022 at 10:08:10 AM CDT

Good morning Ms. Michaels,

Last year, work began on extending Gessner between West Road and Beltway 8. Because of redistricting this spring, Precinct One began overseeing this project, which has already been under construction for many months. In May, Precinct One officials were notified that the construction company responsible for the completion of both remaining projects surrendered the right to remain in possession and control of the work. Precinct One officials ask for commuters' and residents' patience and understanding while we work diligently to get the project back on track.

The project is secured by a performance bond and Precinct One is taking the necessary steps to work with all parties to ensure that the project moves forward to completion as quickly as possible. In the meantime, Precinct One is taking precautions to secure the site and minimize inconveniences.

Precinct One thanks commuters for their patience and understanding. We will continue to provide updates as the project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Cristina Lopez
Constituent Services Coordinator
Commissioner Rodney Ellis
Harris County Precinct One
(O) 346.286.1950 (M) 832.206.1378
Cristina.Lopez@cp1.hctx.net

WANT YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD?

If you want to voice your concerns or have additional questions, contact Rodney Ellis' office: <https://www.hcp1.net/ConnectWithUs>

- Scroll down to CONTACT US and within those instructions, click on "Submit your request online..."
- **Request Type** – select "Miscellaneous" or "Road Repairs"
- **Area** – select "contractor"
- **Address/Location** – 8845 West Rd 77040
- **Cross Street** – West and Gessner Roads
- **Description** – voice your opinion/ concerns/frustration/questions, etc.

Sale of Christmas poinsettias almost over!

Place your order before **October 21st**
for red poinsettias at \$15 each.

Send your request to
ellenmichaels@earthlink.net.

Indicate your name, your contact email
and cell phone, and how many
poinsettias you want.



Floodwater mosquitoes

If you've been outside lately, you have most likely noticed the giant mosquitoes that seem to want to pick people up and carry them off. With recent weather conditions, floodwater mosquitoes have emerged in large numbers.

Floodwater mosquitoes lay their eggs above the water line in ponds, ditches, pastures, or other places where water collects. The eggs can remain in dry areas and when these areas are flooded the eggs hatch, leading to swarms of hungry mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are larger than mosquitoes we are used to around our homes and can swarm in high numbers.

While floodwater mosquitoes won't last forever, other mosquitoes called container breeding mosquitoes emerge when floodwaters begin to recede. Many of these species are ones that we are used to seeing around our homes.

While the floodwater mosquito species can be difficult to predict and manage, as they can fly up to 5 miles for a blood meal, container breeding mosquito problems can be reduced. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand, mortar, expanding foam or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired. Fill in low lying areas in the lawn with topsoil or sand or install a French drain.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be

used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves and long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when activities cannot be rescheduled.

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

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FLOODWATER MOSQUITO



*Not actual size,
but seems close!*

Going, going, gone *By Cheryl Conley*

In the wildlife world, no one wants to hear about endangered or extinct animals. Sadly, animals are being added to these lists now more than ever and mostly because of us.

What is an endangered species?

It can be a plant or an animal that is considered at risk of extinction. A plant or animal can be listed at a state level, federal level and international level. In other words, there can be an animal that is considered extinct in Texas but not in other areas of the country. Looking at animals in Texas, there are 45 on the endangered species list. (You can view the list at <https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/fids/202001043-2.pdf>.)

When an animal goes extinct it means every single animal in that species has died. So what causes an animal to go extinct? Habitat destruction, invasive species, overexploitation, illegal wildlife trade, pollution and climate change put the survival of species at risk but according to the World Wildlife Fund, human actions alone account for the extinction of 869 species in the last 500 years.

Sad demise of a bird species

A sad example of an animal going extinct by the actions of humans is the Dusky Seaside Sparrow. In 1963 in an effort to control the mosquito population around the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, NASA decided to flood an area of marshland around Merritt Island in eastern Florida. This area happened to be one of the last areas populated by the Dusky Seaside Sparrow. When the area was flooded it destroyed the sparrows' breeding ground. The construction of a highway around the St. Johns River also contributed to habitat loss. The bird struggled to survive but by 1979 only 5 birds remained and they were all male. The species was declared extinct in 1990.

Some good news

But occasionally there's good news. Let me tell you about the red wolf. The wolves once roamed the Southeastern

US but their populations dwindled due to habitat loss by humans and hybridization with coyotes. They were declared extinct in the wild in Texas in 1980. Along came wildlife biologist Ron Wooten, a resident of Galveston. In 2008 a pack of what he thought were coyotes snatched his dog. He was able to track the group but it was too late for his dog. His flashlight picked up red coloring on the muzzle of one of the animals and he was fascinated.

He posted a message on Facebook and asked to be notified if anyone in the area saw the pack. He got a response and rushed over with his camera. Looking at the photos, he saw that they had overly long legs, sharply pointed snouts and unusually broad heads. The body looked slightly out of proportion. He did some research on red wolves and was convinced the animals were either a red wolf-coyote hybrid or maybe even an actual red wolf. He began looking on roadsides to see if he could find any dead ones. He got lucky and found a couple of dead animals. He removed some skin from each one and froze it.

Persistence pays off

He tried for years to get scientists and biologists to take an interest. Finally, in 2016, someone listened. He contacted researchers at Princeton University and requested genetic testing. "I regularly receive this kind of inquiry but something about Wooten's email stood out," says Bridgett von Holdt, an assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton. "His enthusiasm and dedication struck me, along with some very intriguing photographs of the canines. They looked particularly interesting and I felt it was worth a second look."

DNA from the skin samples was compared to the DNA from coyotes, gray wolves, red wolves, and eastern wolves. Although mostly coyote, it turns out that nearly 30% of the genetic



makeup of the samples was from the red wolf. Under the Gulf Coast Canine Project, the animals are now being fitted with GPS collars and wildlife cameras to track movements. Both fecal and tissue samples are being collected as well. For more information on this project, go to <https://www.gulfcoastcanineproject.org>.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are just a few things you can do to help save endangered species and their habitats.

- Put up bird feeders and provide bird houses and baths.
- Plant a pollinator garden.
- Avoid using herbicides and pesticides. Try to use only environmentally-friendly products.
- Don't dump out old paint, oil or chemicals. Look for places in your community where you can safely dispose of these items.
- Recycle. Buy sustainable products.
- Speak up and support measures to help animals and their habitats.
- Follow and support conservation and environmental organizations.

Most importantly, learn to live in harmony with our furry and feathered friends. Let's work to make sure endangered doesn't turn into extinct.

November Community Event **SAVE THE DATE!**

On Sunday, November 13th from 3pm-5pm join us for "Sunday Funday" at the Pavilion Park.

This event will include "Pictures at the Pavilion" (family photos sponsored by realtors "KateSellsHouston" and Cathy Peveto with Edward Jones), "Yonderlust" the cocktail truck from Goode Company BBQ and



art stations for children of all ages.

The Christmas Committee is sponsoring the art stations to create holiday masterpieces that will be displayed at "Christmas on the Lake," happening Saturday, December 3rd. Reminders and more details can be found on [WWL Nextdoor.com](http://WWLNextdoor.com) and the Facebook group, *Families of Woodwind Lakes*.



There is a lot to be said for home remedies

One of my favorite home remedies comes from a farmer in Florida many years ago. Mr. Ebersole had stomach cancer and followed mainly a vegetarian diet. He was a faithful consumer of Aloe Vera! I loved the many visits I had with him as I purchased his produce over the years. I do know he lived many years after

his diagnosis. Maybe the Aloe Vera and diet helped his life journey last longer? I do know Aloe Vera worked many times for my mother for the discomfort of diverticulitis and for acid reflux.

I thought it would be fun to go back to the time of Dr. George Washington Carver and learn about the many products he made from the humble peanut. They include face powder,

...He was a faithful consumer of Aloe Vera. Maybe the Aloe Vera and diet helped his life journey last longer?



shampoo, paper, shaving cream, hand lotion, glue, rubber and the list goes on to over 300 products!

Some of the suggestions for peanut butter (smooth peanut butter works best) are:

- Hang pinecones stuffed with a mixture of peanut butter and coarse cornmeal as a treat for winter birds.
- Spread some on a slice of apple or a scrap of bread for a good mousetrap bait.
- Encourage your dog to swallow a pill by sticking it into the center with a little gob of peanut butter.
- Apply to lawn mower blades as a lubricant.

- Smear it on garden tools (including wooden handles) as a winter preservative.
- Massage a bit of peanut butter into hair to remove a wad of chewing gum.
- Use a thin coat as a substitute for shaving cream. Really! It hydrates and moisturizes.
- Polish leather and vinyl items using a bit of peanut butter on a cotton cloth. It buffs up wooden items too.

If you have water marks on your wood furniture, try mayonnaise! Rub it on and let sit for a few moments then wipe off. I have used this tip many times and it works.

This is just a few of *many* natural and inexpensive tips to use in life. Oh, one more thing before we close... please remember vinegar is excellent for household cleaning. I also add to my laundry wash; wash my vegetables and mirrors with it and it's great for tile floors when diluted. Folks, what I like about home remedies such as the above...no chemicals!



Take care all...stay well and happy!
Sincerely, Donna Konopka

September Yard of the Month winners

SECTION 1



9118 BRAHMS LANE

SECTION 2



9126 RHAPSODY LANE

SECTION 3



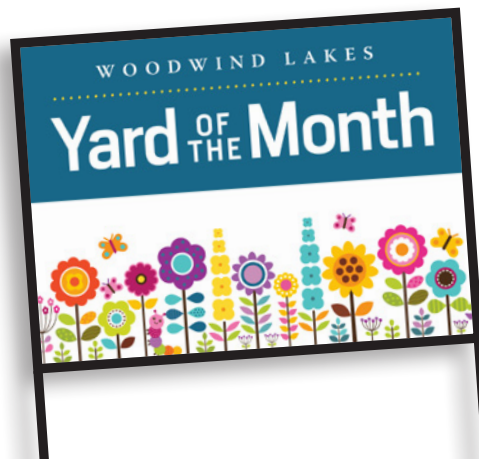
8719 GOLDEN CHORD CIRCLE

SECTION 4



8023 CLARION WAY

Congratulations!



Important Contacts

CONSTABLE’S OFFICE

Harris County Pct. 4 Constable’s Office.....**281-376-3472**
<https://www.constablepct4.com/>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Mendi Strnadel
Vice-President..... Jeffrey Krahn
Treasurer Daniel Kallus
Secretary Kate Weatherford
Director..... Krysty Kling

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

Newsletter

Lynn Collins..... lynn.collins@garygreene.com
Jay Michaels..... jaysmichaels@earthlink.net

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Ann Tatum anntatum9203@gmail.com

PAVILION & FAMILY POOLS

rgard@grahammanagementhouston.com

FAMILIES OF WWL

Dana Patterson..... greg.dana.patterson@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

Terry Buckner terry214@live.com

WOMEN’S CLUB

Marianne West, *President* marianneWest@outlook.com
Terry Buckner, *Vice President* terry214@live.com
Cindy Horn, *Secretary*..... cindy.d.horn@gmail.com
Lynn Collins, *Treasurer*..... lynn.collins@garygreene.com

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

GRAHAM MANAGEMENT

rgard@grahammanagementhouston.com..... **713-334-8000**

Mailing Address

2825 Wilcrest Dr., Suite 600, Houston, TX. 77042

Association Manager

rgard@grahammanagementhouston.com

Exterior Improvement Application Submittal

arc@grahammanagementhouston.com

Pct. 4 Constable **281-376-3472**

Call Before You Dig **1-800-DIG-TESS** or **1-800-344-8377**

Street Light Outage..... **713-207-2222**

www.centerpointenergy.com — Have light pole number.

Dead Animals

To collect dead animals from the streets or off the side of roads in unincorporated Harris County (*outside the City of Houston*), call the County Operator..... **713-755-5000**

UTILITIES

Sections 1, 2, 3

Trash pick-ups are Mondays (trash) and Thursdays (trash and recycle). Heavy trash is 2nd Thursday of each month.

Waste Management Customer Service **713-686-6666**

Water/Sewer Issues, all Sections **281-807-9500**

M.U.D. #261 (Sections 1, 2, 3) www.hcmud261.com

Board of Directors

S. Brady Whittaker (05.12.22), *President* **713-333-6411**

Jason VanLoo (05.14.24), *Vice President* **281-236-6419**

John Oyen (05.14.24), *Secretary* **713-446-3959**

Larry Goldberg (05.12.22), *Director* **713-824-5499**

Milt Dooley (05.14.24), *Director*..... **713-858-7303**

Section 4 – Village of Woodwind Lakes

Trash pick-up are Mondays (trash and recycle), and Thursdays (trash).

Best Trash Customer Service **281-313-2378**

TOPS Water..... **281-807-9500**

Utilities..... <http://www.wfud.org>

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

Social Media

Facebook: To join Families of Woodwind Lakes
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/257071051054592>

Sec 4 Gates

rgard@grahammanagementhouston.com

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE INFO

The Woodwind Lakes newsletter is published on the 1st of the month for all Woodwind Lakes residents.

To submit an article for consideration, email it to lynn.collins@garygreene.com.

Closing date for submissions is the 15th of the previous month.

WEBSITE

If you haven’t yet registered, please do so in order to get email blasts and other important messages for the community. See tab at the top of the home page for Resident Registration.

If you have a question for the HOA Board, there is a tab at the top of the page for that, too.

www.woodwindlakeshoa.com