

Woodwind Lakes

NEWSLETTER

| DECEMBER 2025

Christmas on the Lake scheduled for Saturday, December 6

4:00 – 7:00 PM | Family Pool

Woodwind Lakes has celebrated Christmas on the Lake for the past 10 years, and it's become one of our most beloved traditions — bringing together hundreds of neighbors to kick off the holiday season with music, laughter, lights, and holiday spirit!

Highlights include:

- Hayrides, hamburgers, hot dogs
- Silent auction
- Dessert table – homemade treats from the community
- Wine toss
- Live music
- Kids activity area include S'mores stations and Christmas crafts
- There will be a table to collect Toys for Tots

The lights and decorations have been installed around family pool area and set to brighten the neighborhood throughout the holidays. *Special thanks to board member, Brian Loeb for leading the charge on organizing and overseeing the installation. Also a special thanks to the many neighbors who donated lighting and decorations to make the neighborhood glow!*

► Christmas on the Lake Celebration request for desserts

We all look forward to sampling the yummy treats donated by the talented bakers in the community.

Is there a go-to dessert treat you make that everyone always raves about? Are you making a dessert for Thanksgiving that you could double? Is there a new dessert recipe you've been wanting to try out? The Dessert Team and the community welcomes your contribution to the dessert table!

If you can bring a dessert for Christmas on the Lake, please send an email to Linda Orban at WWLHolidaybaking@gmail.com.

► Silent auction

The Silent Auction Committee is accepting donations of gift cards, gift baskets and new items. If you have a favorite restaurant or place of business and can contribute items or gift certificates to use, please text Mendi Strnadel at 713-410-9381.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Pancake breakfast

The pancake breakfast was a successful fundraiser! Thanks to the neighbors who came out to enjoy the beautiful morning, and to those who volunteered to cook. Eat your heart out, IHOP!



Big thanks to our amazing wreath team!

A massive shout-out to these incredible ladies who spent their time refurbishing all our wreaths so they're ready to be hung around the neighborhood today.

Their hard work is what makes Woodwind Lakes shine during the holidays!

From left to right in the photo: Robin Sample, Darlene Guidry, Charleen Baugh, Gail Ford, Linda Merigold, Terri Corbitt and her granddaughter Gwen, Ruth Edwards, and Terry Buckner.



We wish all of our residents a meaningful season!

We join with our Jewish and African neighbors to recognize and celebrate this special time of year. We wish all of our residents a meaningful and celebratory season.



Dec 14 – Dec 22



Dec 26 – Jan 1

Some seasonal notes



Holiday Trash Schedule

Waste Management (Sections 1, 2, 3)

There is no service scheduled on Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years Day. If a holiday falls on pickup day, materials will be picked up the next regularly scheduled pickup day following the observed holiday.

Best Trash (Section 4)

There is no service on Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years Day. Trash collection resumes normal schedule on the Monday following the holiday.

CHANNELS TO STREAM HOLIDAY MUSIC

Spotify Christmas Pops, Christmas Classic, Christmas Party, Christmas Morning Jazz, Cozy Country Christmas

Pandora Christmas, Holiday Traditional, Country Christmas, Rockin Holidays, R&B Christmas

Amazon Music Mellow Holidays, Christmas Present, Christmas Piano, Christmas Instrumentals, Holiday Jazz

SiriusXM Holiday Pops, Jolly Christmas, Holly, Holiday Soul, Christmas Spirit, Holiday Traditions:

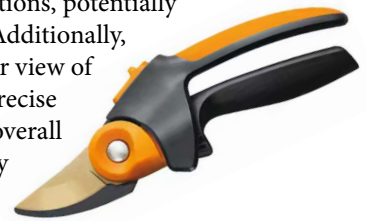
The Christmas Station A free, 24/7 internet radio station with a curated mix of modern hits and classic holiday songs. <https://thechristmasstation.org>

Dormant Season Pruning

During the colder months, trees go dormant, slowing their growth and conserving energy. Without active leaf production or nutrient distribution, trees redirect their resources to strengthening their root systems and preparing for the upcoming spring. This makes winter the ideal time for pruning, as trees can heal more efficiently and direct energy toward new, healthy growth when warmer weather returns.

Dormant season pruning differs from pruning during other times of the year because there is less risk of disease or pest infestations. In warmer months, freshly cut branches can

attract harmful insects and fungal infections, potentially causing long-term damage to the tree. Additionally, with leaves gone, arborists have a clearer view of the tree's structure, allowing for more precise cuts that improve shape, strength, and overall health. This proactive approach not only enhances the tree's resilience but also helps prevent potential hazards, such as weak branches breaking under the weight of snow or strong winds.



The benefits of winter pruning include

- Better visibility for precise pruning
- Reduces risk of disease and infestation
- Promotes faster healing and spring growth
- Prepares trees for harsh weather conditions

Update from the Board

The Board of Directors held the monthly meeting on November 20. Four residents attended the meeting in person and five attended via Zoom. The Board of Directors meets every third Thursday of the month to conduct community business including approving

expenses, discussion of bids and deed restrictions. Meeting agendas are finalized and published via email and on the Woodwind Lakes website 7-10 days prior to the meeting. The Board welcomes and encourages resident attendance at the monthly meetings.

During the November meeting, board members were elected to their new positions. Email addresses for contacting board members will be implemented as indicated below.

Brian Loeb – *President*

Therese Uddmar – *Vice President*

Steve Barnhart – *Treasurer*

Sue Preston – *Secretary*

Tim Orban – *Director*

president@woodwindlakeshoa.com

vicepresident@woodwindlakeshoa.com

treasurer@woodwindlakeshoa.com

secretary@woodwindlakeshoa.com

director@woodwindlakeshoa.com

Notes on the Grounds, Trees and Trails

The new landscaping company, Superior LawnCare, is hard at work around the neighborhood identifying problem areas that require further attention and planning for the future.

In the coming days, Superior will provide a detailed tree map of the neighborhood with an action plan for treatment and future plantings. Please allow the Superior crew to work and do not disturb them.

Additional focus to assess and repair irrigation issues is taking place. Systems were tested recently and confirmed that Fountain 2 on Lake 1 is not working. The Board is collecting bids to repair the fountain. We are also waiting on bids for the irrigation pump on Lake 2 which has not been functioning for a while. A vendor will be selected as soon as possible so that work can begin. The Grounds Committee would welcome additional volunteers to help with these and other initiatives.

Community landscape concerns should be brought to the attention of Dave Sample (davidwsample@yahoo.com) or Therese Uddmar (tuddmar@yahoo.com). Residents with tree concerns should contact Jeff Krahn (jd krahn@yahoo.com) or Steve Barnhart (sbarnhart@origin.bank).

Grounds Committee update

The Grounds Committee is seeking additional volunteers to help with upcoming initiatives. The immediate priority is resolving multiple issues with irrigation systems throughout the neighborhood so that plantings and trees receive sufficient water and nutrients.

In the near future, residents will be able to Adopt A Cul-de-Sac!
Watch for more information in future newsletters and on Facebook.



Jose Defreitas, WWL Manager with Superior LawnCare

The Women's Club field trip to Daikin Park

The Women's Club enjoyed a field trip in November and informative tour of the home of the Houston Astros, Daikin Park followed by lunch at Spaghetti Western. Next month the Women's Club will visit the

Brookwood Community, a non-profit residential and vocational community for adults with disabilities located in Brookshire, TX. The Women's Club meets every third Tuesday of the month.

All women are welcome to participate! Please contact Marianne West at 713-818-9543 for more information about the Women's Club.



Report Suspicious Activity and Non-Emergency Concerns

There are two ways to report non-emergency concerns or criminal activity. Call the Harris County Sherriff's Office at 713-221-6000, or report online at <https://www.harriscountyso.org/ReportCrime/Default>.

Using these methods will ensure that an official log is created which is then included in the monthly statistics report.

REMINDER Poinsettia Pick Up

Remember to pick up your poinsettias on December 5 at the Family Pool between 3 PM and 6:30 PM. Please bring your payment when you pick up.

Cash and checks are accepted forms of payment, and exact change is much appreciated.

Appreciation can make a day,
even change a life.
Your willingness to put it into
words is all that is necessary.

MARGARET COUSINS

Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season is a time to celebrate with loved ones and reflect on gratitude. As you embrace the joy of the holiday season, stay vigilant and safeguard against potential theft and security risks. Have a solid plan to shop safely.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Stick to retailers that you know and have shopped with before.
- Research retailers that you're not familiar with or haven't shopped with before.
- Avoid using public Wi-Fi when making online purchases.
- Keep your receipts and monitor your bank account and credit activity.
- When looking for a parking space, be patient and alert for pedestrians.
- Park in well-lit, high-traffic areas.
- Don't leave valuable items in your vehicle, especially in plain view.
- Lock your car doors, even if you're stepping away for a moment.
- Avoid putting your personal belongings in the shopping cart.
- If you're shopping with children, identify the store personnel so they know who to ask for help.
- Always lock your doors and windows, whether at home or away.
- Adequate outdoor lighting is a deterrent to burglars.
- If you're expecting deliveries, track packages and arrange for them to be delivered when someone is home.
- Avoid advertising your travel plans on social media. Wait until you return to share your holiday experiences. Broadcasting your absence can make your home a target.
- If you have a home security system, renew your alarm permit annually. For more information, call 713-755-4600.
- Update and share emergency contact information with trusted neighbors.
- If you're traveling for the holidays, we've got you covered! The Harris County Sheriff's Office Vacation Watch Program offers added security when you're away from home.

A FIRST FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!**A family recipe suggested by one of our own neighbors**

Thanks to Lynne James for sharing this recipe from her mother.

MOTHER'S CHOCOLATE CAKE**Bring to a boil:**

- 1 cup oil
- 1 cup water (I used a carbonated water)
- 1 stick butter
- 4 Tbsp cocoa (I use somewhat heaping tablespoons)

Slightly cool and add the following:

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 Tbsp Mexican vanilla
- 1 Tbsp pure almond extract

Mix (with a whisk) and bake 40-50 mins. At 350 degrees in a greased and floured (or sprayed) pan. (I baked in a 10 x14" shallow metal sheet pan and frost while slightly warm.

**Note: The cocoa I used was "Dark Cocoa Powder" from an Amish store. It is literally black and I think has more flavor and richness than other cocoa powders. Point is that the richer the cocoa powder, the better. You can also add a very little strong coffee for an extra flavor.*

CHOCOLATE ICING**Bring to a boil:**

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 4 Tbsp Black cocoa powder (or other rich cocoa) (also heaping)
- 6 fingers of salt (an old-fashioned measurement)
- 1 Tbsp Mexican vanilla
- 2 or 3 Tbsp pure almond extract

Beat (or whisk) till somewhat thick:

- 1 lb powder sugar (or more)

**Frost cake while still warm. Then sparingly sprinkle a coarser sea salt on top of frosted cake. Be careful not to use too much. Salt adds a nice dimension to this cake.*

Optional: 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans

Lynne James' Mother (1950's recipe)

Note: We'd like to keep this as a regular feature.
Residents who would like to submit a recipe for a future newsletter can email it to carahawthorne1@gmail.com.

The benefits of registering on Crest's website

Don't miss out on all the benefits of the Homeowner Portal on Crest Management's website. Your personalized dashboard will give you immediate access to these great features:

- Check your balance and print a statement.
- Quick and easy online payment process.
- Submit online forms such as Exterior Modification Requests (EMR).
- View current deed restriction violations and current/historical exterior modification requests.
- Receive email notifications of board meetings.
- Submit service requests to the management team.

Your Community Page contains up-to-date information to keep you plugged in.

- Crest Management contact information
- Most recent meeting agenda
- Governing documents
- Services to the association
- Monthly financials and meeting minutes archive

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**Creating your homeowner account on
www.crest-management.com has never been easier.
Follow these simple steps to get started today.**

1**Scan QR Code Below****2****Click
"Not Registered Yet?"****3****Complete Fields and
Click Submit**

No phone? Simply click here:
www.crest-management.com/Login

If you have any issues during registration, or questions about the site, please contact: info@crest-management.com.