

Woodwind Lakes

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2025

WOODWIND LAKES

Fourth of July

CELEBRATION

THIS IS GOING TO BE A RED, WHITE AND YOU DAY!

Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy some Chick-fil-A nuggets while listening to great tunes from DJ Hank!

As one of the largest community events, the 4th of July Parade and Party at the Family Pool is a “can’t miss” happening 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.

- Parade line up: 11:00 am.
- Location: Family Pool, 9015 Woodwind Lakes Dr. @ Ensemble Dr.

We’re looking for decorated cars, golf carts, bicycles or ATVs to join the parade. We’re counting on your participation to make this event memorable for the entire neighborhood.

- DJ: 11:00 am.
- Lunch: 11:45 am.
- Face painting, street chalk, water balloons, bubble wands and more.
- Take Instagram family photo memories under the balloon arch.

Enjoy the delicious treats: Chick-fil-A nuggets, chips, watermelon and snow cones while supplies last!

Please keep an eye on the Woodwind Lakes website or Community Alert emails for updates.

So, mark your calendars and join us for a day filled with patriotism, community spirit, food and lots of fun!

Let’s make this Fourth of July celebration one to remember.

Who gives a hoot?

No taller than a pint glass and about the size of a robin, screech owls blend seamlessly with their surroundings thanks to masterful camouflage. Eastern screech owls are highly skilled hunters and are more often heard than seen, emerging at dusk to hunt throughout the night. They have a whistling call rather than an actual screech, which they use

to communicate and defend territories under the cover of darkness.

Eastern screech owls can be found throughout the Eastern United States, generally east of the Rocky Mountains. Their primary habitat is wooded areas and they

prefer trees with cavities for nesting and roosting.

It may be a natural cavity or can even be one made previously by a woodpecker. Don't be surprised if you find one has moved into your squirrel box or a nesting box you've put up for another species. They've adapted well to populated areas and are happy to call home parks and residential areas with mature trees as long as the trees are suitable and there is a food source.

Special attributes let them see the world around them and help them to survive even in neighborhoods like ours

Screech owls are carnivores and their diet consists mainly of small mammals like mice, rats, squirrels, shrews and moles. They will also eat

small birds, insects, lizards, frogs and toads, worms and spiders. Being nocturnal, they need exceptional night vision for hunting. Their eyes are very large relative to their body size and

are fixed forward in their sockets. Many other birds have eyes on the sides of the head. Although owls can't move their eyes, they have very flexible necks and can turn

their heads almost 360 degrees largely expanding their field of vision. Their vision is binocular, meaning they use both eyes together and see the same object simultaneously giving them a three-dimensional view and enhanced depth perception. It helps them track their prey and adjust their movements in flight.

They can be either gray or a reddish-brown and both male and female look identical so you won't be able to tell the difference between them. Females typically lay 3 to 5 eggs that are laid at 2 to 3-day intervals and incubation lasts 26 days on average. Only about half of the eggs actually hatch. Interestingly, once the eggs are laid, the female will lose the feathers on her belly which is a hormonal response to egg laying. This bald patch is called a brooding patch and enhances the transfer of body heat to the eggs. The female leaves the nest twice, usually at dusk and again at dawn to stretch, preen and defecate. The male does all of the hunting and delivers the prey to the female.

During incubation, it's interesting to watch the movements of the male. He will roost between 14 and 20 feet away. During the hatching process, he'll move closer to the nest, even as close as 6 feet. Once all the eggs have hatched, he'll move farther away again. He continues to deliver food to the family either whole or headless and it's up to the female to tear it into small pieces for the babies.

It takes between 24 and 32 days for the young ones to reach the fledgling stage. They may be on a branch or on the ground. They hop and flutter and work on their flying skills. They continue to be fed and protected by their parents for up to 10 weeks. During this time, they are learning to fly and to hunt. After 10 weeks, they are able to survive on their own.

Cheryl Conley

Lake Creek Preserve Board of Directors



Gray morph



Rufous morph



In January of this year, I hung a squirrel box and was surprised to see this little face staring at me a few weeks later.

CHERYL CONLEY

As urban sprawl continues to wipe out our trees, suitable natural cavities can be scarce. You can provide a safe haven for these fascinating little birds by building a screech owl nesting box. Providing one is more than just a simple woodworking project; it's an impactful way to support local wildlife. If you're interested in building a nest box for eastern screech owls, here are a couple of reputable resources with detailed instructions and plans. I'm sure there are several more if you want to do a web search.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-build-screech-owl-nest-box>.

https://www.owlpages.com/download/Screech_Owl_Nest_Box_Plans_-_Brad-dock_Bay_Raptor_Research.pdf

You can also find plans on You Tube.

If you'd rather purchase a ready-made box, they are available on several sites but here are a couple:

<https://www.amazon.com/Screech-Owl-Boxes/s?k=Screech+Owl+-Boxes>

<https://www.wildbirdstoreonline.com/collections/screech-owl-boxes>

WHO O O O O O
wants to hear the sound of a Screech Owl?

CLICK HERE

Worth noting again

I found a problem, now what do I do?

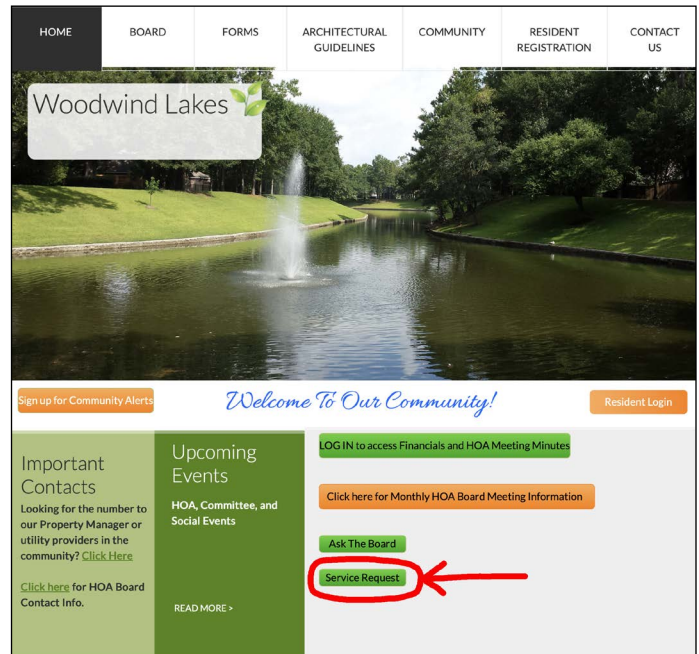
Have you spotted an issue of concern in the neighborhood that needs fixing and aren't sure who to turn to?

You can report the issue to Crest Management and the HOA by using the **SERVICE REQUEST** button on the home page of the www.woodwindlakeshoa.com website.

Reporting problems or conditions is very helpful in keeping our community safe and desirable which benefits all of us.

Here are some examples of problems you can report, along with the location:

- Fountain not working.
- Waterfall not working.
- Problem with irrigation system or sprinkler head.
- Large, fallen limbs in common areas.
- Hazardous conditions in common areas.
- No doggie bags.
- Gates in Section 4 not working.
- Any other issues in the common areas or amenities including the pools, paths, tennis courts, dog park or pavilion.



*Have a safe
and happy
Fourth of July!*

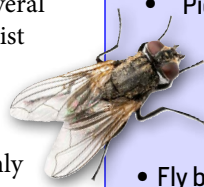


Is anything more annoying than these pesky little critters?

House flies

House flies are out in large numbers due to current weather conditions and while mostly a nuisance, they are capable of transmitting bacteria to surfaces. House flies are less than 3/8 inch, grey in color, with three dark stripes on their thorax. As with most flies, adults have two wings.

Flies have complete metamorphosis with four life stages: egg, larva, pupa, adult. Mated females lay eggs — several batches of 100 to 150 eggs — in moist organic matter, sometimes fecal material, garbage or carrion and larvae hatch out and eat the organic matter. Larvae are commonly called maggots and are creamy white and carrot shaped. Larvae seek out dry locations to pupate, converting the last larval exoskeleton into a puparium. During summer, flies can go from egg to adult within seven days.



To reduce the number of house flies in and around your home, try the following:

- Repair any damaged weather stripping around doors and windows.
- Make sure screens do not have holes and are tight fitting.
- Garbage and recycling bins should be kept away from doors and windows.
- Remove trash and recyclables from the area at least once per week.
- Pick up pet waste every few days and put it into the trash.
- Composting areas should be kept in an area away from the home.
- Garbage and recycling bins should be cleaned at least every other month in the summer to remove organic matter build up.
- Fly baits are available for treating inside garbage bins.
- Outside, try inverted cone traps that have a lure. Place them away from the home and in an area where they are not competing with garbage or recycling areas.
- Indoors, try UV fly lights or the ever-handly fly swatter.

Mated females lay eggs — several batches of 100 to 150 eggs.

During summer, flies can go from egg to adult within seven days!

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

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True independence and
FREEDOM
can only exist
in doing what's right.

BRIGHAM YOUNG

July Yard of the Month winners

SECTION 1



7806 ENSEMBLE DRIVE

SECTION 2



7703 ALLEGRO DRIVE

SECTION 3



8719 SERENADE LANE

SECTION 4



8022 CLARION WAY

Congratulations!

And thanks for keeping our community looking its best!

