

# Woodwind Lakes

NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2025



**Woodwind Lakes HOA is thrilled to announce this year's Fourth of July Parade, BBQ and fun activities. Calling all residents, Scouts and Scout Leaders. We need your help to make it a success!**



As one of the largest community events, the Fourth of July Parade, BBQ 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: 9:30
- ★ Opening ceremony and parade start promptly at 10:00 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. Older scouts will carry large flags while younger ones will wave energetically to the spectators along the parade route. All scouts are requested to come dressed in their respective uniforms.

Prizes for the best decorated vehicle will be announced along with other fun prizes.

We're counting on your participation to make this event memorable for the entire neighborhood.

- ★ Parade: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- ★ Lunch: 12:00 pm
- ★ Face painting, bingo, street chalk and more from 1:00 pm.

Enjoy delicious treats and the beautiful, newly plastered pool. Jump on in!

But what if it rains? We've got you covered. In case of rain, the event will be postponed until July 5th. 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.**

Please contact  
Merrell Greene at  
[wwlmjg@hotmail.com](mailto:wwlmjg@hotmail.com)  
if you can volunteer,  
participate or help  
in any way.





# MUSIC FESTIVAL

## The first Woodwind Lakes Music Festival was an overwhelming success!

Special thanks for the generosity of our donors and volunteers who made this incredible event happen!







# MUSIC FESTIVAL



Organizer Ann Tatum with major contributors David Huntington and Bob Rugur



# MUSIC FESTIVAL



*The Cul-de-Sac*



*The Duderinos*



It was a most enjoyable  
evening of live music,  
food and drink.

An event to look  
forward to next year!



# I found a problem, now what do I do?

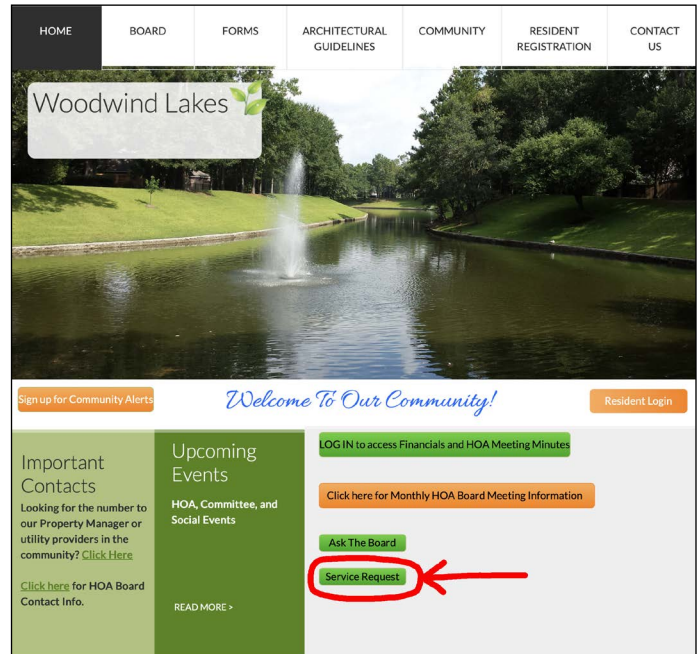
**H**ave you spotted an issue of concern in the neighborhood that needs fixing and aren't sure who to turn to?

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](http://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.



*Write it on your heart  
that every day is the best  
day in the year.*

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON —



*How would you answer the question: “What is the smartest bird on the planet?”*

## Being called a bird-brain just might be a compliment

Although measuring avian intelligence can be challenging due to the diverse ways birds solve problems and adapt to their environments, scientists and researchers all agree the crow is the most intelligent bird in the animal kingdom. Before I get into the reasoning behind that decision, let's learn a little about the American crows.

With a range covering nearly all of the lower 48 states, barring the southwestern deserts, the American crow is a familiar sight. They are very adaptable and you'll find them in urban, suburban and rural areas. Distinguished by its glossy black feathers that shimmer iridescently, it possesses long legs and a sturdy, straight bill. Adults typically measure between 16 and 21 inches in length, about 40% of which is tail, and weigh approximately one pound. These intelligent birds are omnivores with a remarkably broad diet, consuming natural foods like worms, insects, seeds, and fruit but also scavenging trash and carrion and opportunistically preying on baby birds from nests.

Young American crows don't breed until they are at least 2 years old but most don't breed until they are at least 4 years old. They are territorial and will defend their nests and foraging areas.

### What happens when a crow sees another dead crow?

Crows are monogamous and their lifespan is between 7 and 15 years. Interestingly, they hold funerals for their dead. When a crow sees a fellow dead crow, it will send out a loud call to the other crows. The group will then perform aerial maneuvers and vocalizations at the “funeral”.

Due to their intelligence, crows have demonstrated remarkable memory skills. They can identify and remember individual faces and associate them with positive or negative experiences. They effectively communicate these occasions to others in their murder (a flock of crows), who may then collectively react to the person involved. An experiment at the University of Washington proved this to be true. Wearing masks, researchers captured and banded 75 crows. No harm

was done to the crows but the birds did not like being caught. For the next 3 years, the researchers would wear the masks outside to see if the crows would react. They certainly did. The researchers were scolded, mobbed, dive-bombed and pooped on by the crows.

One 8-year-old girl in Seattle learned all about the intelligence of crows when her kindness to them was reciprocated. Gabi Mann would leave food out for the crows on a daily basis and soon the birds began to anticipate the daily treats. She was pleasantly surprised when the crows began reciprocating by leaving gifts for Gabi. She got an assortment of small items that would fit in a crow's mouth like buttons, paper clips, screws and even a rotting crab claw!

### Here are just a few other examples that demonstrate the intelligence of crows

- They've been observed bending materials like sticks and wire to retrieve food from small spaces. Alex Taylor, a lecturer at the University of Auckland, was stunned when he watched a New Caledonian crow named Betty make a hook from a piece of wire to pull some food from a tube.
- Crows will drop rocks into a container to raise the water level in order to reach floating food.
- Their problem-solving skills were observed when they waited for the red light before retrieving food out on the street.
- The Magnuson Children's Garden watched as one crow taught other crows how to use tools.

### Crows have been tested with various puzzles and have been able to solve them.

Until recently, it was believed that only humans could recognize and differentiate shapes based on geometric regularity. “Claiming that it is specific to us humans, that only humans can detect geometric regularity, is now falsified,”

says Andreas Nieder, a cognitive neurobiologist at the University of Tübingen in Germany. Two tamed crows were shown a computer screen with 6 shapes. In order to get a tasty treat, they had to peck at the shape that was different. The example she gave was 5 moons and 1 flower. Pretty obvious, right? She gradually made the experiment harder. In the end, she showed the crows 4 perfect squares and one shape that very closely resembled a square. It had only one slightly different part. Could they pick it out? Absolutely!

In the journal *Science Advances*, researchers explain that crows clearly have a sense of right angles, parallel lines and symmetry. Not even baboons could do it even though they are so much closer in intelligence to us.

While we watch the skies for signs of intelligence, sometimes we overlook the brilliance that lives among us. We're discovering remarkable minds right here on Earth. Crows remind us that intelligence wears many faces and is not a uniquely human trait.

*Cheryl Conley*

*Lake Creek Preserve Board of Directors*





# The Women's Club End of Season Finale





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Welcome our new neighbor, Susan Hiatt



Birthday Girls – Dana Brennan and Cindy Horn



Incoming Vice-President, Melissa McCloskey





# RECENT LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to the efforts of the Grounds Committee there have been improvements made in several locations around Woodwind Lakes including at the Family Pool, the Gessner entrance and the median on Tocatta Boulevard. New sod has also

been planted in several locations that were sorely in need of replacement – along Ensemble Drive, near and across from the Family Pool. Grounds Committee members contributed to plants at the entrance to Lake 3 in Section 4 as well as the new rocks there.





## June Yard of the Month winners

### SECTION 1



8027 ENSEMBLE DRIVE

### SECTION 2



9115 RHAPSODY LANE

### SECTION 3



8727 ANDANTE DRIVE

### SECTION 4



7918 SINFONIA DRIVE

*Congratulations!*

And thanks for keeping our  
community looking its best!

