

# Woodwind Lakes



It's all right here

March 2013

Volume 2, Issue 3

## Message from WWL Board

### *Hats Off To The Grounds Committee And All WWL Volunteers*

We owe a debt of gratitude to our WWL Grounds Committee, past and present members. Imagine what our neighborhood might look like without them. Actually, you don't have to imagine. Just take a drive through a typical twenty-year old Houston neighborhood and compare.

These are our current committee members: Terry Buckner, Jim Coapland, Joe and Lucille DeFatta, Laura Gomez, Joyce Kraft, Ken Hein, Diana Mintner, Jay Michaels, Ray Pavia, Marianne West, Lynn Collins, Jason Mathers and Suzanne Williams. This is the kind of work that they do:

- Christmas Wreaths during the season
- Creation of and remediation of garden spots in common areas
- Stocking doggie waste bags in receptacles
- Yard of the Month
- Advise on issues of drainage, trimming, tree removal and sprinkler repair

Woodwind Lakes is blessed with many volunteers who freely commit their time and energy providing community service. To name a few, Marianne West who chairs the Security Committee and maintains the neighborhood email information list; Donna

Jackson who oversees access to all the facilities in the Reserve; Bob Magee who manages Section 4 gate access. Additional services appreciated by our community are provided by the Women's Club chaired by Joyce Kraft, the Book Club chaired by Mary Hancock and the MOM's Club chaired by Rebecca Waterman. The organizations contribute to our community activities including the 4th of July event, Easter Egg Hunt, Garage Sales, as well as numerous social events. Let's not forget about Santa (Mike Sorrentino, Ray Pavia and John Oyen). He never forgets us.

As long as we are paying tribute to tireless volunteers, let's also acknowledge and appreciate our Municipal Utility District (MUD #261) members who serve our community in countless ways.

We are fortunate that so many of our neighbors contribute to the well-being of our community. We hope that when the time is right for you that you will want to actively participate by joining with our volunteers.

This article offered by your Association Board of Directors; Lee Suydam, Darin Duphorne, Bob Magee, Mickey Culpeper and Jay Michaels.

## Signs Signs, Everywhere a Sign

It is easy to become confused about the requirements of the neighborhood Deed Restrictions that address signs. The Deed Restrictions are clear – there are to be no signs on Resident property.

How can this be? There seem to be plenty of signs in the neighborhood. In September, the HOA Board clarified this issue by promulgating a Sign Policy and posting it to the WWL website [woodwindlakes.us](http://woodwindlakes.us). The policy itemizes exceptions for certain types of signs. They are:

- Home For Sale/Lease
- Political Signs 90 days in advance of an election
- School Spirit Signs such as JV, Varsity

- Security Signs & Stickers
- Garage Sale (sanctioned Association signs)
- Yard of the Month

The definitions and details for each type of sign are laid out in the Sign Policy. The policy goes further to describe what types and size of religious emblems and displays that are permitted for the entry door or frame. These particulars are in accordance with the Texas Property Code.

So, there you are. There are no signs permitted on resident property except for these exceptions itemized in the Sign Policy.

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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**Administrative Assistant** - Janine Cruz .. janine@sterlingasi.com

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#### Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Service

..... http://records.txdps.state.tx.us

## UTILITIES

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713-686-6666 - Trash Pick-up is Tuesday and Friday.

**TOPS Section 1, 2, 3 & 4** - 281-807-9500

### SECTION 4 WATER DISTRICT

Windfern Forest Utility District - 713-983-3604 - www.wfud.org

### M.U.D. #261 BOARD SECTIONS 1, 2 & 3

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**M.U.D. 261** ..... www.HCMUD261.com

### SECTION 4 VILLAGE OF WOODWIND LAKES

Royal Disposal & Recycle, P.O. Box 160, Fulshear TX 77441

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Trash pick-up for Section 4 only, is on Wednesday and Saturday including curbside recycling every Saturday.

## ADVERTISING INFO

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## ARTICLE INFO

The *Woodwind Lakes Newsletter* is mailed monthly to all Woodwind Lakes residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for consideration please email it to [frank@sterlingasi.com](mailto:frank@sterlingasi.com). The deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

## Common Deed Restriction Violations

The most common deed restriction violation issues encountered are:

- 1) Storing trash cans in view in front of the house.
- 2) Lawn maintenance. Please keep your yard clean, mowed, edged, weeded, and watered.
- 3) Storing of boats, trailers, non-running vehicles, commercial vehicles and machinery in plain view.
- 4) Mold and Mildew on the bricks/siding.
- 5) Repairs - falling rain gutters, damaged windows and screens, weathered front doors, rotting siding and trim, fading paint.
- 6) Unauthorized & non-compliant modifications or additions to the home or property. Don't waste your time & money - get approval first!

## Adult Pool/Pavilion

Because of our wonderful weather, the Pavilion is a great place to have a gathering....and it is free! All you have to do is make a reservation, put down a \$50 deposit and CLEAN UP as soon as your party is over...That means to haul off your trash....that's it and your deposit is given back or torn up (check)...For reservations contact Donna Jackson:

- 713-466-8668....home phone
- kotilla@hotmail.com
- or catch me on Facebook

## Bathrooms

Just a reminder to all....whether you are playing tennis, using the Pavilion, the Reserve, the Adult Pool, or just "in the area", please remember to close the door to the bathroom when you leave. If it is left open, the wind blows the leaves and trash into the bathroom...let's keep our facility clean....



### Hello

from **Woodwind Lakes resident Brian Penso.**

2013 is still a bit of a mystery for most of us but I can say saving money is as good as making it. I am a regional consultant with Ambit Energy and the following are just a few reasons I started with them.

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## Water Transmission Project Ready for Operation



The Windfern Utility District / HCMUD No. 261 joint water project is complete. Several minor delays closing out the project ended up pushing the completion date into January. The cutover date has been further delayed due to City of Houston inspections and meter calibration work. Despite the project timing issues, the work has been completed on-budget. The new water transmission line is scheduled to become operational in February.

Separately, the Rolling Fork PUD / HCMUD No. 261 sewage treatment plant refurbishment project is complete and operational. The project was completed on-time and on-budget.

### Invoicing and Billing

This summer, HCMUD No. 261 operator SouthWest Water elected to exit the municipal water district operator business abruptly. The change required TOPS (Texas Operational & Professional Services), our new operator, to quickly assume responsibility for managing the water and wastewater operations for the district.

The changeover has not been without problems. Invoicing and billing was a major issue.

While the majority of associated problems have been resolved, TOPS and the MUD directors seek to return all to a "steady state."

The following actions have been completed:

- A return to regular, monthly meter readings.
- A credit was included on the January bill for certain customers who were overcharged due to the timing of the meter reading versus what they would have paid if the readings were taken upon the regular interval. The tiered structure of our water rate order requires meter readings to be made.
- Communications have been sent to MUD 261 customers outlining various bill payment options.
- TOPS staff has been educated that MUD 261 pays the \$1 service fee for ACH auto-debit payments. We are one of the only water districts that pick up this fee. In addition, the online form for requesting ACH auto-debit will be updated for MUD 261 customers. It will no longer reference a \$1 per month fee.

## MOMS IN PRAYER

Moms in Prayer ([www.momsintouch.org](http://www.momsintouch.org)) meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. at 8906 Opus Court. All moms with school-aged children are welcome to come pray for their kids and their schools. For more information, contact Kristah at [kristah\\_slate@yahoo.com](mailto:kristah_slate@yahoo.com).

## Mothers of Woodwind Lakes

Mothers of Woodwind Lakes is open to all families in the neighborhood. At this time we are mainly a forum to meet other families and gather resources that interest families.

The online web discussion group has had many active topics and resources for families with children of all ages...topics include items for sale, repair person resources, school information, networking for childcare and elder care.

Please contact Rebecca Waterman at 713-896-9796 or [rebeccawaterman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rebeccawaterman@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to join the group and online discussion board. Your information will be shared with other group members only. There are no dues or time commitments.

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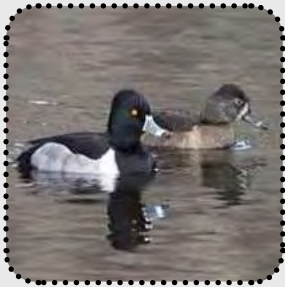
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## ALONG THE FLYWAY

*by Lee Suydam*



I saw for the first time a small flock of Ring-necked Ducks on the lakes in January. These birds breed in the northern United States and Canada and feed on pondweed, seeds, earth worms, insects and snails. It was such a rare sighting that I thought to write a few words about our migratory visitors.



More commonly, we have our favorite, the Mallard (green head). The Mallard is widely distributed around the world in places too numerous to mention. They too, move north in summer and south in winter. Since 1933, the Peabody Hotel in Memphis has kept a small flock of Mallards on the roof of the hotel. Each evening, the Ducks are ushered down the elevator, across a red carpet into the main parlor to swim in the fountains to the delight of hundreds of spectators. Mallards are very flexible with their diet. They eat flies, crustaceans, worms, vegetation and tubers.



Before, the Ring-necks came in, we had two flocks of Lesser Scaups or Blue Bills. Although they breed in western Canada to western Montana, they range from Alaska to Central America. Like the Ring-neck, they feed on seeds and aquatic plants but more prefer seafood, mussels and clams.

The Scaup's head is slightly green and has no distinctive white markings on the bill. The back of the Ring-neck is tufted but not so the Scaup.



It's quite a treat to gaze upon a majestic White Heron (Egret) stalking the banks for fish. These birds have a wide range in North America. They eat fish, frogs, small mammals, snakes and insects.



Very occasionally, we have large flocks of the Fulvous Tree Duck (or Fulvous Whistling Duck). This tropical and subtropical bird habits central and eastern Texas, and the Gulf Coast of Louisiana to Mexico. For that matter, they are also found in South America, Africa and India. They are seed and plant eaters. This species, with its tawny color, and its white and black wings, is one of only two duck species that nest in trees. They don't quack, they whistle or peep. They are seed and plant eaters.



The real fisher, however, is the Cormorant that moves in giant waves across the lakes, diving under and coming up to swallow small fish they have caught. They are coastal birds at home in fresh or salt water. Commonly, they are seen drying their outstretched wings on the banks of the lakes.

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## Landscape Committee



A TIP OF THE TROWEL TO RCW Nurseries!! Did you know that RCW has provided Yard of the Month gift certificates, four per month, to Woodwind Lakes for over ten years? Jim Coapland of the Grounds Committee has been instrumental in securing this donation by RCW for us to give to our Yard of the Month winners on a monthly basis.

RCW carries many bedding plants, ground covers, shrubs, trees and lawn treatments, all specifically formulated for our unpredictable Houston climate. Next time you visit RCW, please thank them for supporting Woodwind Lakes.

This year, the Grounds' Committee is going to be focusing on collaborating more with Monarch Landscape and Design to further beautify our areas. If you have an idea or would just like to be a member, please contact either Suzanne or Diana. We look forward to having you.

## THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF WOODWIND LAKES



Following the many activities and hectic schedules of the Holiday Season, the Women's Club of Woodwind Lakes started the New Year by enjoying a "distresser". The speaker for their monthly program, January 15th, was Suzi Woodard, Licensed Massage Therapist with enHomeMassage. She led the members in several styles of meditation and relaxation. This followed her message about the many benefits of massage that she had gained from personal experiences. Ms. Woodard enlightened the group about using aromatherapy, breathing techniques and soothing music as part of a massage session. Following the meeting Ms. Woodard availed herself to give massages to willing participants who found

*(Continued on Page 7)*



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## Women's Club (Continued from Page 6)

it soothed tight muscles.

When we needed to make a change in the January location, Donna Konopka graciously stepped forward and offered her home for the meeting. The Club is deeply grateful. The co-hostesses were Margaret Sinclair and Sharon Siebern, who provided bowls of a variety of cut fruit and delicious homemade bread and other pastries. The host always provides the varied selection of beverages.

A revised addition of the By-Laws had been presented at the December meeting. Following explanations, the By-Laws were voted into acceptance. The main change was a formal addition of four standing committees into the By-Laws.

The February meeting will be in the home of Cindy Sheen. The co-hosts are Althea Hoelscher and Judith Oyen. The program topic is «Eating to Thrive». We look forward to the explanation of how, by Kim Flaviani. Ms. Flaviani is a resident of Woodwind Lakes.

The Women's Club of Woodwind Lakes extends an open invitation to all women of the subdivision to come and join us. We know you will enjoy the camaraderie and programs that are offered. The meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at ten o'clock. For further information, please contact any officer listed inside the cover of this Newsletter.

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