

Woodwind Lakes



It's all right here

June 2013

Volume 2, Issue 6

Message From The Board

Woodwind Lakes Homes

What is your home/neighborhood worth?

What do home buyers like and dislike about Woodwind Lakes? That's the question we asked Realtor and Resident, Lynn Collins, who attended the March Board meeting. Here's the way she laid it out in the buyer's order of preference:

1. Location, location, location. WWL has geographic advantage. Its proximity to the city, the Interstate system, the airport and to a growing number of high paying jobs within a stone's throw makes WWL attractive to home buyers.

2. Flowers. It's real-estate 101. Curb appeal. When buyers enter the neighborhood, they pass the gardens of color that always draws compliments.

3. Walking trails and lakes. Lynn says many of her clients linger in the neighborhood after a home showing just to sit on a lake bench and soak up the ambiance.

4. More curb appeal. Potential buyers are impressed with the "clean" look of the community, the well-kept lawns and the pride owners take in their landscaping.

What about negatives? Lynn says she is always careful to bring clients though the main entrances so as to avoid the side streets. Some of them are a bit shabby. The "industrial" look of Fairbanks North Houston does not offer promise, nor does the traffic on Windfern Road. From a Realtor's point of view, Lynn says there are but a few homes for sale at any given time and they sell very quickly.

Julie Sample, Realtor and Resident, visited the April meeting. According to Julie, the housing market and particularly WWL is very hot right now. Sellers are typically receiving multiple offers however, appraisals have not kept up and many buyers won't pay above appraisals. Her prospective buyers like the appearance of WWL, the trees, the landscaping, the clean look of the neighborhood and the central location. Section 4 buyers like the gates and the schools. Potential buyers are somewhat put off by the area surrounding the neighborhood. School choices are less attractive in Sections 1, 2, 3.

According to Julie, keeping your home updated does a great deal to maintain its market value. Buyers are looking for improved kitchens and bathrooms.

Grounds Committee

DIANA MINTNER & SUZANNE FONTENOT-WILLIAMS

What a nice time of the year---the grass is green, annuals and perennials are all in bloom. And in the words of Frank Cario, our Association Manager at Sterling and our Woodwind Lakes Newsletter Editor.....AHCHOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!

Thank you to the following Grounds Committee members who spent a recent Saturday morning planting knockout roses, loropetalums, daylilies, ferns and bridal wreath in the area adjacent to the adult pool: Terry Buckner, Linda Coapland, Joyce Kraft, Ray Pavia, Hank and Suzanne Williams and Dave and Diana Mintner. A Special Thanks to Laura Gomez for providing a delicious breakfast.

The Grounds Committee has also placed colorful hibiscus in the pots within both pool patio areas.

A TIP OF THE TROWEL to Ray Pavia for Bridal Wreath plantings and Hank and Suzanne Williams for a sago palm. We do appreciate all donations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MAYYARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS:

SECTION ONE
8007 Ensemble Drive

SECTION TWO
7903 Scherzo Lane

SECTION THREE
7815 Cadenza Court

SECTION FOUR
9407 Sinfonia Drive

We welcome suggestions and Resident involvement on the Grounds Committee. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Terry Buckner's home – 9207 Brahms Lane. Feel free to contact either Suzanne Fontenot-Williams at suzydiver@att.net or Diana Mintner at dianamintner@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

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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. The deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

Gardening Tips

Presented by RCW Nurseries



Crape Myrtles begin to bloom this month. While each variety has a specific bloom period of about 6 weeks, you can extend it by snipping off the spent flower heads. This will force the tree to produce additional flowers.

If you haven't already done so, mulch, mulch, mulch! This conserves water, keeps roots cool, helping plants tolerate our heat. Give your beds, shrubs and trees a good soak before and after mulching them.

Fire Ant mating season began last month and continues to the end of this month. Did you know that newly mated queens can fly up to 10 miles to establish a new colony? Get with your neighbors and distribute your favorite fire ant bait throughout your yards, preventing the queen from creating new colonies.

Protect your all your plants from insect pests and foliar feed them at the same time with RCW's Guardener's Mix, a solution of horticultural molasses, Garlic Barrier, Kelp and/or Fish Emulsion. Foliar feeding is best done in the very early morning or evening, when the temperature is below 80 F. The plants are hydrated and their stomata (the little openings in the leaves) are open, so they'll immediately absorb the nutrients contained in the spray. Above 80 F, the stomata start closing as defense mechanism protecting the plant from the stress of rising temperatures. Spray the solution drenching both the top and undersides of the leaves until it drips into the soil. Horticultural molasses contains nitrogen and complex sugars. As the solution drips to the ground, the complex sugars are broken down by the beneficial soil microbes, stimulating their activity. And it seems to chase ants away, possibly upset with the increase in soil microbial activity.

Garlic can kill aphids and other soft-bodied pests while repelling flies, grasshoppers, wasps and other insects. Garlic as an insect repellent is not a new idea. As early as 5000 BC the Egyptians used it to repel flies, especially during the Nile delta flood season. Both garlic and horticultural molasses contain sulfur, which in itself is a mild fungicide. Food grade molasses does not contain sulfur. The

RCW's Guardener's Mix recipe is posted in the Library section of www.rcwnurseries.com.

Father's Day not only honors your father, but all men who act as a father figure. If he's into cooking, consider giving "Dad" pots of a new Basil variety for Italian dishes, Lemon Grass for Thai cuisine, and Rosemary to season meat, pasta, dips and everything else in between. If he's a nature lover, give him a basket made up of Salvias and Cigar Plants, guaranteed to bloom throughout the summer and attract butterflies and hummingbirds, the latter especially during their fall migration. Finish off the basket with a shepard's hook and hummingbird feeder in the middle of making it a popular stopping point.

The Fourth of July is just around the corner. Now is the perfect time to color up your deck, porch and patio with container plantings of flowers. After choosing a pot, our selection is fabulous, look for plants that have the same sun/shade and watering needs. So no Moss Rose and Impatiens combinations!

Fill each pot nearly to the top with a good quality potting soil. One by one remove plants from their plastic pots and place them in the pot. Then stand back and look at the overall effect before filling in with soil. Don't be afraid to cram in the plants, they'll fill in fast and give you an immediate full look. When the pot is all planted, water it well.

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Woodwind Lakes

New Library Arrives In Woodwind Lakes

By: Magnus Sevcik, seventh grader, Harmony School of Excellence

It all started one day as I was on a bike ride in Terry Hershey Park and I saw something called a Little Free Library. I thought that this would be a great thing to have in my own neighborhood of Woodwind Lakes. A Little Free Library is basically a wooden box, decorated or non-decorated, that holds books. The great thing about the library is that you can take any book you want and donate any book you want too. The concept of the little free library is to take a book and leave a book of your own. It was invented in the 1990's and has been a spreading phenomenon in neighborhoods across Houston ever since.

With the generous donations from the Residents of Woodwind Lakes, I was able to buy one of these libraries and thanks to our homeowner association it is installed near the pavilion in our neighborhood. If you ever need to borrow or donate a book that you think is good that everyone will enjoy, then just look for a little red British telephone booth which is our little free library in Woodland Lakes. The Little Free Library is located in the Reserve by the barbeque grill.

For the little free library I hope to accomplish getting kids and adults to read more and open themselves up to new things and books. Little free libraries cost between \$300 and \$700 but with donations from our neighborhood and street, we were able to buy the best library on little free library.org. If your young son or daughter hasn't discovered reading yet or doesn't like to read, taking them to our Little Free Library might just be the thing that gets them excited about reading.

A special thanks to all the people who donated: The Berryhill Family, The Boudreaux Family, Lynn Collins - REALTOR Better Homes and Gardens - Gary Greene, The Dorries Family, The Ebe-Weber Family, The Flavini Family, The Girkin Family, The Moriarty Family, The Rowell Family, The Whitaker Family, My Grandma Fran Smith, my other Grandparents Blair and Beverly Smith, and my Uncle Brett Smith.



Board Meetings

Regular Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Windfern Forest Utility District building located at 14410 Mauna Loa. Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and all Residents are welcome. During Homeowner Input, Residents have the opportunity to address the Board. The agenda is posted on the WWL web site www.woodwindlakes.us

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MUD 261 News

Potential MUD261 Bond Refunding and Future Projects

In 2013, the directors of HCMUD No. 261 are reaching out to residents to communicate and discuss options in preparation for paying off current bonds versus refunding them and /or borrowing additional funds for future community projects. Beginning in early 2014, the MUD has several alternatives, including refunding the bonds at a potential lower interest rate; and in addition, potentially borrowing supplemental funds. Early resident input has offered the following ideas:

- construction of a small community center building at the rear of the recreational reserve. It would be for the exclusive use of MUD261 residents
- contribution towards or construction of a WL / Section beautification project, including perimeter wall/fencing along Windfern Road and Fairbanks / North Houston Road.
- Do nothing; just pay off the existing bonds

The WL Home Owners Association, MUD and community leaders plan to work together to enjoin residents to clearly understand the options and solicit opinions during the course

of this year. Ultimately, an affirmative voter referendum would be required before a major community project, if any, is undertaken.

Please talk with your neighbors and community leaders about the MUD finances, bond refunding options, and potential neighborhood projects. The directors encourage you to contact us to come visit with WL community organizations or neighborhood small groups in order to share facts and answer questions. You may contact MUD261 President Ray Merola at 713 688 2321 as a communications focal point, or alternatively any of the directors as listed in the Newsletter.

HCMUD No. 261 encompasses WL Sections One, Two, and Three. WL Section Four is part of the Windfern Forest Utility District.



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Women's Club

With a hurricane season a yearly event, the Women's Club of Woodwind Lakes requested speakers from The American Red Cross to educate our members on the important steps to take for hurricane preparedness. The speakers brought various items to discuss how they can make the event a survival experience. Many of us have the minimal items but were encouraged to make an escape plan and share it with relatives. All members agreed that the reminders need to be taken seriously and acted upon.

The host for the April meeting was Gulshan Hira. Her co-hosts, who provided an ample brunch, were Marianne West and Joyce Kraft. During the meeting portion correspondences were read; thank you notes were received from the Half & Half Sax Ensemble for the donation and from Linda Wischnewsky for flowers and cards. Standing Committee reports were given by the Chairman; Hospitality/ New Residents, Marianne West - there is a sign-up website for meals for one of our members and all new residents have been contacted with hospitality packets. Membership, Joyce Kraft - the committee will form and address responsibilities during the summer months. Scrapbook/ Historian, Cindy Sheen - the committee will complete the final pages/months of the 2013 year during a "to be announced" date. Charity, - this committee is on hold until new criteria is written to define the objectives, goals and methods of selection of a charity. An Ad Hoc committee, chaired by Cindy Sheen, will be appointed to write the criteria.

The Nominating Committee announced their selections for the 2013 - 2014 officers, They were accepted by acclamation and are: Diana Mintner - President, Gail Ford - Vice President, Stacia Harvey - Secretary and Dawn Porter - Treasurer.

Several announcements were made which will be executed

before this Newsletter goes to press. Six April birthdays were acknowledged. The Encore Book Club will be reading *The Same Kind of Difference As Me* by Ron Hall for the first Wednesday night in June. There are 8 burlap sacks that can be used for birthday parties or other celebrations. They are owned by the HOA and stored for community use. These can be borrowed by calling Joyce Kraft - the custodian of the sacks, especially used for "sack races".

The end of the year Recognition Luncheon will be held at the Brio Tuscan Grill, in The City Place, on May 21, 2013. This is the ninth year of continuous existence for the club. During the luncheon the past Presidents are acknowledged along with the hosts, co-hosts and various accomplishments of the year. The Club has provided a conduit for women of this community to expand their social contacts, hear a variety of monthly speakers and to attend one outing outside of our area. The Club's latest community service was an opportunity on May 8th to hear Ray Merola, President of MUD #261 and Bob Magee, HOA Board member. They shared information about the four possibilities the MUD Board could consider after the MUD #216 bonds are retired. This only affects residents in sections 1, 2, and 3. The meeting was well attended and by consensus of those present, steps were agreed upon for methods of educational action to be taken. The goal of this action will aid in an informed voter.

The responsibility for writing the monthly Women's Club article for the Newsletter is that of the President. I shall turn over the gavel on May 21, 2013. Therefore I say, "Thank you for reading the monthly information, hopefully you are now more enlightened about our club".....I'll see you in the neighborhood!.....J. Kraft

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Ongoing: Volunteers needed to stuff and distribute water safety packets info@colinshope.org

Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed! <http://www.tinych.org/signup>

Now-June 18: Discount Schlitterbahn Tickets for sale. <http://www.tinych.org/tickets>

May 18: Colin's Hope Got2Swim Pure Austin Quarry Lake. <http://www.tinych.org/QuarryLake>



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Adult Pool and Pavilion

The Pavilion at Woodwind Lakes has been in use this spring...lots of parties....

Now the Adult Pool will begin being available on May 1....Remember, if you would like to secure a party with your deposit, call or e-mail Donna Jackson.

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Woodwind Lakes

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 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.



Babysitters Needed



Are you a resident who is interested in babysitting with the families in the neighborhood? The Mothers of Woodwind Lakes is collecting names as a resource to all residents. A short e-mail with your current information and fall schedule is very helpful even if you have been on the list before. Whenever you send a new e-mail it will get posted to the group again.

For more information contact:
Rebecca Waterman, Mothers of WWL
e-mail: rebeccawaterman@sbcglobal.net
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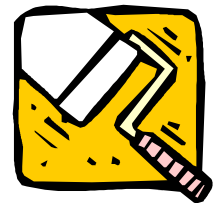
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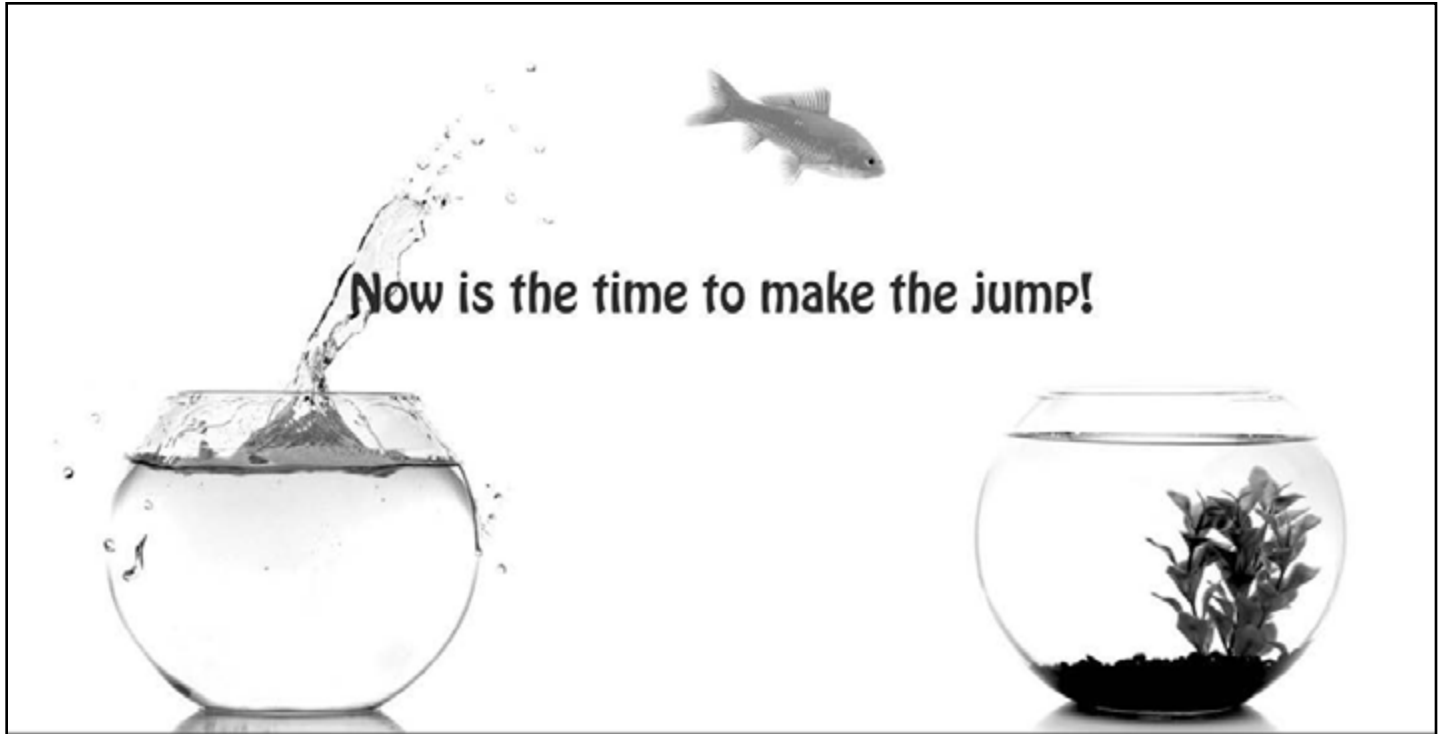


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