

Woodwind Lakes



It's all right here

August 2013

Volume 2, Issue 8



HANDICAPPING THE CHOICES

by Lee Suydam

Our social media site, Nextdoor, is alive with opinions about neighborhood choices. I am happy to see so many residents putting in their two cents.

First, let me apologize to the Section 4 residents. Please understand that the discussion and decisions facing Sections 1, 2, and 3 have to do with taxes raised by MUD #261 in that portion of the community. Taxes raised in Section 4 are collected by WFUD. There presently are no proposals from WFUD to invest tax revenues in Section 4.

What is being proposed, in a few words, is to borrow cheaper money than current, use a portion of the new loan to retire old loans and use the balance to fund some community projects that enjoy a base of support from the community. Any, all, or none of the proposals can be considered at this point.

The most popular idea seems to be building stone walls on Windfern and Fairbanks N. Houston. According to the Nextdoor comments, money spent for this proposal enjoys widespread support. One resident, so far, has offered to serve on a steering committee. We expect this proposal to become a referendum item going forward.

The argument for a community center has legs. Four residents have formed a steering committee in support of this proposal. We expect this proposal to become a referendum item going forward.

The last place in the discussion so far is fencing off the lakes. Much to my surprise, this idea has gone over like a lead balloon. I could be surprised again with a new birth of enthusiasm but I have to say at this point that fencing the lakes is lagging in the discussion.

There is a fourth choice which needs consideration. Doing nothing instead of something(s) would result in future tax reductions in Sections 1, 2 and 3 (reductions in that portion of taxes for debt service). Using a home with an assessed value of \$250,000 as an example and figuring in new borrowing to retire existing debt plus projects which may be approved, the homeowner could look forward to something like this:

DEBT SERVICE PORTION OF MUD#261 TAXES		
YEAR	Without borrowing	With new borrowing
2013	\$800	\$800
2014	\$800	\$975
2015	\$800	\$975
2016	\$800	\$950
2017	\$800	\$850
2018-20	\$0	\$325
2021- out	\$0	\$300

Your property taxes are composed of County taxes, School taxes and MUD taxes which are broken down into Maintenance / Operations and Debt Service components. The example above only pertains to what might happen with the Debt Service portion of MUD taxes and based on the assumption of borrowing a million dollars at 4% interest. These numbers are indicative rather than exact and consequently subject to change. The MUD also borrows money from time to time for maintenance / operational expenses as needs arise.

More discussion is needed. Please express your opinions.

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

USEFUL LINKS

WL Website.....http://woodwindlakes.us/
Sec 1, 2 and 3 Utility.....

..... http://hcmud261.com/HCMUD261/Index.htm

Section 4 Utility http://www.wfud.org/

Social Media .. https://woodwindlakes.nextdoor.com/news_feed/

Newsletterhttp://www.peelinc.com/

Sec 4 Gate (ICS)

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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



From mid-August thru mid-October, hummingbirds migrate through our area. They are not necessarily attracted to just red or orange flowers - they are not interior designers - they are attracted to plants whose flowers provide lots of nectar. At RCW we see they also like Chinese Hat Plant (a tender perennial with blue flowers surrounded by lavender calyxes), Yellow Honeysuckle (a shrubby, evergreen perennial with yellow, tubular flowers), and Agastache (a perennial with whorls of lilac flowers, similar to Bee Balm).

Hummingbirds fly from places as far north as Canada to return to their winter homes in Mexico, choosing paths containing plants yielding high amounts of nectar. This long journey, coupled with their high metabolism, results in a daily need to drink twice their weight in nectar. So a 2 ounce hummingbird needs to obtain nectar from 1,000 blossoms a day to keep itself alive.

Few of us have enough plants that daily produce 1,000 nectar-containing blossoms; a hummingbird feeder is a great addition. Hummingbirds will stay in your yard loading up on nectar until they've sufficiently stored enough energy to continue their journey south. These little birds put on quite a show jealously guarding feeding sources from each other. To keep the peace, place a feeder in both your front and back yards.

Change the hummingbird nectar every 3 days, otherwise it will ferment. Throw away the unused nectar and clean the feeder every time you change the solution. Hummingbirds seem to avoid fermented nectar. It has been suggested that natural selection may have eliminated those birds not smart enough to avoid bad food. If you allow your hummingbird nectar to ferment, it will be a long time before the birds trust your feeder.

By including a hummingbird feeder along with nectar rich plants, hummingbirds will deem your home a good food source. And because of their good memories, these "fragments of the rainbow" will return to your home the following year - so you'll always be guaranteed an annual visit from them.

Because of federal regulations, all garage door emergency release handles are colored red. But to a hummingbird they look like one of their favorite flowers, Trumpet Creeper, and will fly in to investigate. Once they discover it's not, they'll try to leave. But having no concept of ceilings their immediate reflex is to fly straight up, always bumping into the ceiling in a futile attempt to find a way to get out. If your garage has a window, they'll try to fly through it instead of the open garage door. In less than an hour, a trapped and exhausted hummingbird can starve to death. What to do?

First, keep pets and kids away so they can't chase the bird, or make it more anxious. Move cars out of the garage into the driveway. If your garage does not have a window, get a flashlight and a towel, or fishing net. Turn on the inside garage light and close the garage door. When the bird flies over a clear section of the floor, turn off the light. Having poor night vision and not liking to fly in the dark the bird should flutter to the floor. Turn on your flashlight, find the bird, and cover it with either the towel or fishing net. Open the garage door, gently scoop up the bird and

carry it out. Open the towel, or gently remove the bird from the net, to release the bird. It may either lie still in your hand for a minute, or leave immediately. In either case, when it finally reorients itself the bird will fly away - straight up.

If your garage has a window the bird will try to fly through it. Open it from the top pane if you can (don't forget to take out the screen). If you can only open the window from the bottom pane or it is permanently sealed, wait until the hummingbird tires itself out trying to fly through it -- should rest on the window's ledge. When that occurs it should be "fairly easy" to capture it with a large net, or towel.

Another technique is to leave the garage door open and hang the hummingbird feeder from it, attracting the bird to feed from it and rest. Hopefully it will calm down enough to figure out how to leave.

To prevent a recurrence, keep your garage door closed when you don't actually need it open. This is a good safety practice. You can also temporarily cover the release handle with a dark colored cloth or bag, or at least loop it up out of sight.

Happy Gardening!

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The Women's Club of WWL is pleased to announce the officers for the 2013-2014 club year: Diana Mintner- President, Gail Ford- Vice President; Stacia Harvey- Secretary and Dawn Porter- Treasurer.

The purpose of the Women's Club is to offer a convenient and friendly environment for members to socialize with the ladies in the neighborhood and participate in fun and interesting activities. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from September through May. Our annual membership dues are \$25 per year.

Our kick-off meeting for the 2013-2014 year will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 10:00am in the home of Diana Mintner (7806 Ensemble Drive).

For more information about the Women's Club please contact: Diana Mintner, President (dianamintner@gmail.com); Gail Ford,

Vice-President (ggford@sbcglobal.net); Stacia Harvey, Secretary (sfonfara@gmail.com); Dawn Porter, Treasurer (dawns_08080@yahoo.com).



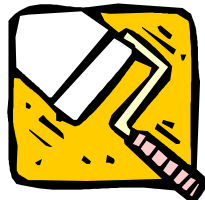
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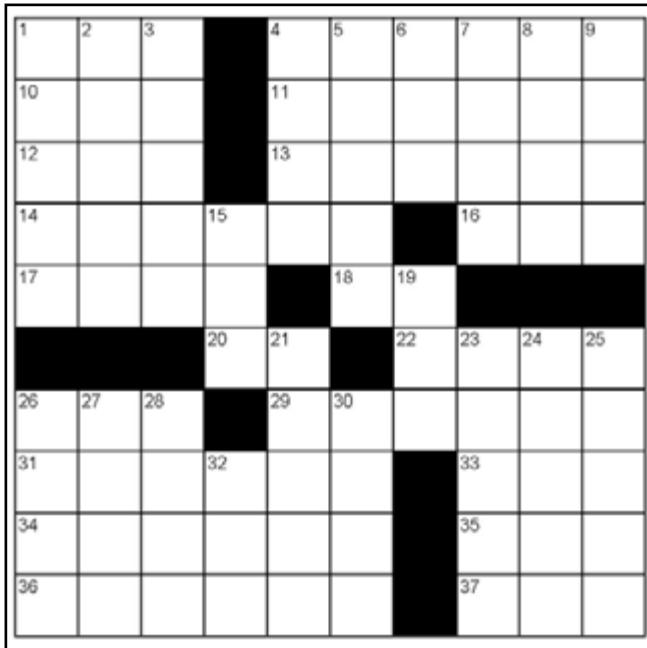
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ACROSS

1. Belong
4. Elevator alternative
10. Fire remains
11. Short guy, hairy feet
12. Manipulate
13. Indoor
14. Coaxing
16. Condensation
17. Adolescent
18. South Carolina (abbr.)
20. New Jersey (abbr.)
22. Hornet
26. Rock
29. Loves
31. Demonstrate
33. Government agency
34. Subordinate
35. Cause of sickness
36. Elapse (2 wds.)
37. Surface to air missile

DOWN

1. Finds _
2. Make available
3. Not here
4. Tibia
5. Fire iron
6. Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
7. As previously cited
8. Cycle
9. Soup
15. Hotel
19. Cash with order (abr.)
21. Rachel's husband
23. Regions
24. Reddish brown
25. Sacred song
26. Pearls
27. Vile
28. Brief
30. Refuse to believe
32. Pinch

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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Mothers of Woodwind Lakes

Friends,

I want to share with you the wonderful experience that the WWL community has provided me and my family.

In April of 2006, my husband and I with our newborn daughter moved into the Woodwind Lakes community. At the time I was a new mom and new to Houston. Not knowing any other families in the community, my neighbor Marianne West gently encouraged me to start a Mothers Group for WWL. I can't thank her enough for her encouragement and initial invite to participate in the Women's Group Expo. Through participation in the expo I was able to gather the e-mails of 9 neighborhood mothers. Through email, we developed a weekly play date at 10AM on Tuesdays at the playground. Soon our little group grew into a great community of 50 plus families. I have spent many hours organizing events especially for the young mothers in WWL. Personally, I have reaped far more rewards than any effort outlaid...namely lasting friendships. Little did I know the impact that many of these mothers would have on my life; women that have nurtured me, helped me to grow as a mother, friendships, and how to be community member.

On July 19 my family and I will be moving out of WWL. I want to let you all know how special this community has been to me and how much I will miss actively participating in this community.

Therefore, I ask that if you are a mother of young children, please take some to time to consider getting involved in the neighborhood mother's group. The founding group has mostly school age kids now and the neighborhood needs new people to help keep community events going.

In the end, we need to encourage each other to be actively involved in our community as Marianne encouraged me. We as neighbors actively participating in neighborhood events or groups is truly what makes WWL a special community. If you have an interest in another area...don't hesitate to get involved! With a positive approach, active involvement and working with the WWL board of directors, MUD district and Sterling Management you can help maintain and continue to grow this unique community that we call Woodwind Lakes.

Do you want to know about community events important to families?

Do you want to access or advertise babysitting?

Do you want to want network about play dates or how/where to educate your children?

Please join Nextdoor and ask to be part of the Mother's of Woodwind Lakes. The group is monitored by fellow mothers...Olivia, Dana and Erica thank you!

This group is intended for families with children. We ask that you only join if you have children or grandchildren that want to be involved.

Thank you Woodwind Lakes for providing my family a wonderful home for 7 years!

Rebecca Waterman

Keep in touch: rebeccawaterman@sbcglobal.net

Adult Pool and Pavilion

We are so fortunate to have such lovely facilities in our neighborhood....The Adult Pool is hopping and the Pavilion has lots of reservations....

A decision was made at the last Board Meeting concerning the keys for the Adult Pool. Should you need a new one, you would get that from me (Donna Jackson) as usual. You would then send a \$10 check to Sterling, payable to Woodwind Lakes for this new key. When I give you the key, I will give you their mailing address for this transaction.

Stay cool and enjoy your summer....Donna Jackson

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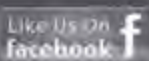
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