

Woodwind Lakes



It's all right here

October 2013

Volume 2, Issue 10



DRIVEWAY GATES

by Lee Suydam

Dear reader, I do apologize to those stalwart and curious souls who dare venture below this line. I fear the tedium of this subject will make the very hair follicles of your scalp cry out in pain.

It seems that driveway gates in the un-gated portion of our community have proliferated over the years. By my count, we have 78 of them and very likely, we will have more. So what, you say? The “what” has to do with setting a standard going forward so that we don’t develop problems in the future. Before I say more, if you already have a driveway gate, it’s fine and dandy. Do not be concerned.

To those who wish to install gates in the future, here are a few things to keep in mind.

- All such installations require an approved exterior modification application (ACC).
- No gating will be allowed except for homes with garages in the rear of the home. If your garage is on the front

or side of the house, forgetaboutit!

- The gate post and/or fence post must not be closer to the street than the front corner of the house that is closest to the driveway.
- Gates that swing in are preferred. If you want an out-swinging gate, you must allow 20 feet from the inside of the sidewalk plus the length of the open gate. This 20-foot “pocket” is necessary for your car to enter the gate without either temporarily blocking the sidewalk or the street as you open the gate. In other words, if your gate is 12 feet long, you would need 32 feet from the inside of the sidewalk to your gate post. You may need to set your gate post inward to accomplish this or consider double gates (saloon style) to cut the gate length in half. The details of the architectural guideline are being recorded and will soon be posted to the website:

<http://woodwindlakes.us/>.

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USEFUL LINKS

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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/

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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.

MUD261 NEWS

Community Projects Update

Woodwind Lakes residents have shown active interest in a small community center and / or a subdivision perimeter beautification project. As the summer comes to a close, MUD 261 directors will consider assigning its district engineer to prepare preliminary plans for further review and discussion. Community leaders and residents will be asked to participate in additional development. If projects gain initial acceptance, a referendum would be called to determine if the overall community supports it. Additional communications and opportunity to express opinions are planned for the fall.

Sale of Water Credits

For many years, MUD 261 has been earning "water credits" as a result of supporting water conservation education in the community and local elementary schools. In addition, our reduction in groundwater use via early conversion to City of Houston surface water earns additional credits. MUD President Ray Merola has been working with district legal staff to sell some of these credits at premium prices. In 2013, the district has generated over \$50 thousand income; used to offset capital project, operating and regulatory expenses.

Women's Club

The Women's Club of WWL kicked off its new 2013-2014 year on Tuesday, September 17 in the home of WC President, Diana Mintner with the other WC officers, VP Gail Ford, Secretary Stacia Harvey & Treasurer Dawn Porter as co-hostesses.

We invite all WWL women residents to join us for a fun and exciting year! Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from September through May. Our annual membership dues are \$25 per year.

The next meeting for The Women's Club of WWL is currently scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 10:00am at the WWL Pavilion. After a brief business meeting, the ladies will enjoy a fun, educational and entertaining wine tasting lesson from Connie Sheppard, a WWL resident and Independent consultant for The Traveling Vineyard.

For more information about the Women's Club please contact: Diana Mintner, Gail Ford, Stacia Harvey or Dawn Porter (email addresses are found under Important Contacts on page 2 of the newsletter).

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Dog Restraint Laws

Submitted by Suzanne Fontenot-Williams

Dogs (and cats). Love 'em. We are an animal loving neighborhood, which is obvious. I love that our neighborhood is a caring and animal friendly community. I have seen many people take in stray dogs and cats and those who have helped others find adoptive families. Keep up the good work!

According to the Harris County Animal Regulations, under Section 3 (Definitions), Restraint is defined as such:

- When it is controlled by a line or leash not more than six (6) feet in length, if the line or leash is held by a human being who is capable of controlling or governing the dog or cat in question; or
- When it is within a fully enclosed vehicle; or
- When it is on the premises of the custodian and the animal does not have access to a sidewalk or street.

Any Animal not under restraint is defined as a stray, and any stray animal is subject to being impounded by an animal control officer

Below is a link to the Harris County Animal Regulations site. Please familiarize yourself with the specifics of the law and encourage others to do so as well.

<http://www.hcpbes.org/vph/Pdfs/HarrisCountyAnimalRegulations.pdf>

Also, please be aware that the open area behind the tennis courts is NOT a dog park. Dogs off leash in this area have access to children and other neighbors that might be in the pavilion areas or the exercise circuit. There are many dog parks in the area that are specifically designed with properly secured entrances and exits and watering facilities. Please consider using those if you feel the need to let your dog off-leash.

When walking with your pet around the lakes and in the common areas, please be aware of approaching neighbors (with and without pets). Runners and walkers, please announce yourself to a neighbor walking a dog if you are approaching them from behind. Startled dogs can be very unpredictable. I know we all enjoy walking the lake areas, but please share the space. Runners and walkers, please keep to the right. Those walking pets please keep them close to you or move off of the trail if necessary. As a courtesy to your neighbors, please take advantage of the dog waste dispensers. There are two on Lake One, and there are three on Lake Two. Uncollected waste is both a nuisance and a health hazard, and there is really no excuse for not picking up after our pets. Please be considerate of others and share the space responsibly.

A little common sense and knowledge of the laws will make our neighborhood a safe environment for everyone. Thank you.

Mothers of Woodwind Lakes

Mothers of Woodwind Lakes is open to all families in the neighborhood. The primary purpose of the group is to meet other families and share resources that interest families. Most recent information on play dates & events will be posted via the NextDoor Woodwind Lakes website. The online web discussion group has many active topics and resources for families with children of all ages. Topics include school information, local kid-friendly activities, networking for childcare, elder care, etc...

Please contact Dana Patterson (greg.dana.patterson@gmail.com) if you would like to join the group and online discussion board. Your information will be shared with other WWL Mother's 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 collects 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 Erica Kortright (erica.t.kortright@gmail.com).

WWL HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sunday October 27, 2013, 4 to 6 PM

Windfern MUD building, Corner of Gessner & Mauna Loa

All WWL residents, whether you have kids or just want to act like a kid again, are welcome! Games, Crafts, and a Chili Potluck Dinner with hot dogs for the kids

If you'd like to help make this a fun neighborhood event, contact Erica at erica.t.kortright@gmail.com.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

What do you do with the leftover paint, fertilizers, and motor oil that are hanging out in your garage? You take them to Harris County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 6900 Hahl Road on the northwest corner of Gessner and 290.

Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) are items that can become dangerous to your family, pets, and the environment when they are old or no longer wanted. When you bring these items to our facility they are disposed in a safe and environmentally responsible method. Approximately 70% of the materials collected at the facility are recycled or used for energy recovery.

Items that are accepted at the facility include household cleaners, yard products (pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides), automotive products (oil, antifreeze, gasoline), pool chemicals, paint and paint related products, batteries, aerosol cans, small and BBQ size

propane cylinders, tires and items containing mercury (thermometers, thermostats, CFLs). Items we do not accept include: electronics, waste from businesses, ammunition and firecrackers, household appliances, municipal trash, and medical / biological / radioactive wastes.

This service is free and our hours of operation are convenient for busy schedules. The facility is open for collections on Wednesdays from 9 am – 3 pm and the second Saturday of the month from 9 am – 2 pm. We also conduct collections on the fourth Saturday of the month. To see our location schedule for the fourth Saturdays you can go to our web-site at www.eng.hctx.net/watershed/hhwhome.html. Our web-site also provides information about how to safely transport HHW to our facility. Please note we are closed the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and the week after Christmas.

If you have questions you may call the facility at 281 560-6200.



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GARDENING TIPS

Presented By RCW Nurseries

The camellia is the undisputed Houston Winter Queen. She is the gardener's perfect lady: evergreen, blooming late fall through winter, and drought tolerant. A camellia comes in lots of colors and heights, and some are even fragrant. You may think a camellia is hard to grow. This is simply not true. Yes, she likes some shade and a well prepared bed (as do most plants), but other than that she is generally a care free shub. But the lady does require a few things. She prefers a spot that has morning sun or dappled shade most of the day. Being in too much shade affects the blooming and thickness of the foliage. Unlike azaleas that need constant moisture, we find that camellias do best if they are watered deeply and thoroughly. There is a simple rule of nature that applies to all plants. Plants having thick leaves don't need as much water as plants with thin leaves. Think about that for a minute. Ferns have lots of very thin leaves and only grow where the ground stays moist. Succulents need minimal amounts of water and have really thick leaves. Compared to most of the common shrubs in Houston, camellias have thick leaves. So water them deeply and thoroughly.

Good bed preparation is a must – it is “not up for negotiation”. Poor bed prep is the #1 cause for a camellia to fail to thrive. They are the poster child for the saying “Put a \$1 plant in a \$5 hole.” They do appreciate a proper amount of mulch. Mulch has great benefits, but too much is worse than none at all, and most people use too much. Mulch should only cover the soil you can see, that is not covered by the foliage, and NEVER, EVER touch the trunk or stems. Camellias can get unwelcome visits from scale and thrips. But these are very easy to control with a systemic insecticide product. We highly recommend Dominion. Because



thrips get into the flower buds before they open in fall apply Dominion in late summer. That should take care of both pests at the same time.

Feeding camellias is easy using an organic fertilizer. Just toss some in their general direction 4 or 5 times a year. A long time ago it was advised to feed camellias once a month for 3 months, beginning after they flower. But that advice was when gardeners were limited to using chemical fertilizers. You ended up with 3 months of over feeding and then starvation. Evenly spaced applications of organic fertilizer work better and help reduce watering needs. By the way, this is generally true for most plants. When they are done blooming simply prune camellias to maintain their over all shape, and to remove dead branches. Apply a hefty dose of organic fertilizer at this time.

Let the spirit of the holiday season bloom joyfully in your yard with Yuletide. She starts blooming around Thanksgiving and keeps going until the end of January. She will decorate your yard without you ever lifting a finger. You can even clip off a few branches and put them around your home for colorful flower arrangements. Yuletide is one of our most popular camellias. White by the Gate produces a nearly continuous display of pure white, perfectly formed, double camellia flowers over an extended period on an upright to rounded bush. The contrasting, dark green foliage creates the perfect foil for the pure white blooms. If you transferred to Houston area from the Northern states you've sadly learned peonies don't grow here. But as the lyrics of a Rolling Stones song say “You can't always get what you want, But if you try sometimes you just might find, You get what you need”, you can satisfy your peony cravings with Professor Sargeant. The dark red blooms are full, tight, and peony style.

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ADULT POOL & PAVILION

The Adult Pool closes on September 30. Just remember that the Pavilion goes on forever...Thanks to all who used the areas this year...what a cheap, clean, beautiful way to have a party! I have reservations already (for the Pavilion) for Oct., Nov. and December...

The address is: 7523 Allegro Drive @ Adagio Avenue
Please contact me if you want to make a reservation.

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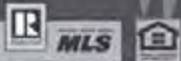


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