

Woodwind Lakes



It's all right here

January 2016

Volume 5, Issue 1

NOTED SPEAKER AND THERAPIST LOUISE HAYES TO SPEAK TO WOODWIND LAKES RESIDENTS ON BRAIN GROWTH AND REPAIR AT ANY AGE

Louise Hayes



The Women's Club of Woodwind Lakes invites all residents of Woodwind Lakes to hear a presentation by acclaimed speaker Louise Hayes, M.Ed., Ph.D. on Tuesday, January 19th at 11:00 a.m. at the Windfern Forest MUD building on Gessner and Mauna Loa.

Mrs. Hayes is a retired special education teacher of children with learning disabilities. This prompted her to study how the brain develops, learns and processes

information. The more she worked with individuals, she found that the brain growth and repair techniques of movement, touch and intention for improved learning also work to enable us to restore memory, balance, movement, strength and independence.

She has seen dramatic improvement at all ages and in so many conditions ...high blood pressure, extreme shyness, anger/aggression, neuropathy, motivation, autism, dyslexia and many other conditions. You may view her current schedule of many other topics on www.braingrowthandrepair.com. She has given these presentations to many educators' organizations as well as to business, professional and service groups.

The Women's Club requests that all non-members please RSVP to Marianne West no later than Saturday, January 16 at fandmwest@earthlink.net or 713 849-0364 to enable the club to plan for seating as well as refreshments.

For additional information please contact: Lynn Collins (lynn.collins@garygreene.com), Marianne West (fandmwest@earthlink.net), Terry Buckner (terry214@live.com) or Barbara Dooley (bd626@swbell.net).

Christmas on the Lake

Our 2nd annual Christmas celebration was a great success. Everyone had a wonderful time visiting with friends and neighbors, watching the kids enjoy Santa and all the games and listening to the wonderful entertainment.

Thanks to all those who worked so hard and contributed so much!

We had many local businesses that gave us gifts or provided discounts. When you visit these stores, please say a heartfelt thanks to the Managers of: Arroy Dee, Bath and Body Works, B J's restaurant, Blue Iris Flower Shop, CVS, Fairbanks Animal Clinic, Friends & Companion Pet Grooming, Home Depot, Kroger, K&S Seafood, Rudy's Bar-B-Q, Texas Spray Tan in Jersey Village and Winner's Pizza.

Of course it could not have happened without the hard work of these very wonderful people. They have been meeting, planning, putting in countless hours of prep work, and worked so hard Saturday night:

Lynn Collins: Wassail and hot chocolate, Santa archway decor, Decoration implementation.

Terri & Rick Corbitt: Children's craft table, Wreath for raffle, Children's games.

Nancy Dawson: Decoration shopping and implementation, Silent auction.

Lee & Ruth Edwards: Chief cooks, Lighting & decorations implementation, Mobile design, construction and hanging.

Gail Ford: Coordinated all entertainment. Assisted with children's games.

Jay & Ellen Michaels: Luminaries on the lake, Lighting & decoration implementation, Provided all printed material.

Ray Pavia: Fund raising.

Joycelyn Spears: Sold raffle tickets.

Chris and Rebecca Stamos: Sound system.

Suzy Stratton: Coordinated lights on the lake, Design assistance, Purchase & implement decorations at pool.

Therese Uddmar: Decorations implementation.

Averil Waghorne: Sweets table, Santa's throne, Silent auction displays.

We are looking for more wonderful people to volunteer for our 2016 committee. If you can join us, please e-mail me, Terry Buckner at terry214@live.com.

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Trash pick-up for Section 4 only, is on Wednesday and Saturday
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WL Website.....http://woodwindlakes.us/
Sec 1, 2 and 3 Utility.....
..... http://hcmud261.com/HCMUD261/Index.htm
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ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make the *Woodwind Lakes Newsletter* possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 1-888-687-6444 or advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

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 Lynn.Collins@garygreene.com. The deadline is the 7th of the month prior to the issue.

First Christmas in America!



Tori, 4, and Sophia, 2 had their first introduction to Santa at our 2nd Annual Christmas on the Lake celebration. They recently moved to America and are the grandchildren of Jim and Nancy Adkins who live in Section 3. Nancy said they were simply awestruck by the decorations and of course Santa. How wonderful to have their first introduction to Santa and Christmas in America here in our neighborhood!

Woodwind Lakes Pavilion/Adult Pool

It is not too soon to be thinking ahead and planning a date for using the Pavilion or Adult Pool in 2016 for a special event.

I have my calendar out and already have one event scheduled.

The properties are located at 7523 Allegro.

Also, remember that the gates no longer use a key card. The gates now have a code. If you need to know the code, please contact Sterling and Associates at (832) 678-4500.

I look forward to scheduling an event for you in the New Year.

Donna Jackson, 713-466-8668, kotilla@hotmail.com.

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Addressing the Woodwind Lakes Duck Problem



During our annual meeting in October there was a public vote to decide if HOA funds should be used to reduce the Muscovy duck population. The residents voted NO to using community funds to remove the ducks. Residents felt our money should be put to better use.

Facts:

1. Muscovy ducks are an invasive species, causing problems in residential areas.
2. The ducks are not property of Woodwind Lakes. A few were dropped off in our community several years ago and now the population is out of control.
3. DO NOT FEED THE DUCKS signs were installed several months ago and have helped reduce the population in some areas.
4. There are still problem areas where residents continue to feed the ducks on their property.

5. Problems created by the ducks are a) Duck poop everywhere, b) Destroy community and residents gardens, c) Creating traffic issues – many have been run over by vehicles, d) Damaging personal property such as cars, e) creating noise pollution by their quacking and cars/trucks honking at them on our streets.

We are having increasing complaints about residents who continue to feed the ducks on their personal property despite neighbor's pleas to stop this action.

Feeding the ducks on personal property encourages them to walk in larger numbers to get to feeding points, leaving droppings, damaging flowerbeds en-route, creating traffic problems and causing the death of many ducks as they travel to houses proving food.

All residents please STOP FEEDING THE DUCKS anywhere in Woodwind Lakes, please Be A Good Neighbor. Our goal is to greatly reduce the Muscovy population not to totally eliminate them.

INSERT PIC

Lack of residents' cooperation may result in the HOA taking more drastic measures to control the duck population.

Woodwind Lakes HOA

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Homestead Exemptions are a legal regime designed to protect the value of the homes of residents from property taxes, creditors and circumstances arising from the death of the homeowner's spouse. It is the one primary

residence of a person and no other exemption can be claimed on any other property anywhere, even outside the boundaries of the jurisdiction where the exemption is claimed.

Homestead exemption laws typically have 3 primary features:

- They prevent the forced sale of a home to meet the demands of creditors;
- They provide the surviving spouse with shelter;
- They provide an exemption from property taxes which can be applied to a home.

Under the Texas Homestead Exemption, the residence is protected from the forced sale by all creditors of the homeowner except for the following five reasons:

1. The lender who loans the funds for the purchase of the homestead or provides refinance money.
2. The tax man, in the form of County, City and School ad valorem taxes that are assessed against the property each year, however, the federal government may force the sale of the homestead for federal liens such as non-payment of federal income tax.
3. The contractor who provides material and/or labor in erecting or improving the homestead.
4. The lender who loans the funds for a home equity loan.
5. Owelty liens (divorces, etc.).

When you purchase a home in Texas and it is your primary residence, you may file for a Homestead Exemption. Applications for exemptions must be made between January 1 and April 30.

If you are disabled or at least 65 years old, you may be entitled to an additional exemption.

For more information, contact the Harris County Appraisal District, 13013 Northwest Freeway, 77040 / (713) 957-7800.

Information Courtesy of Fidelity National Title.

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"This is the hardest working Realtor that I have dealt with. She does not mind holding open houses and using the Internet to market your home. I would definitely recommend her and will use her again in real estate transactions." ~ Connie Ballard

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Mary "Kallie" Coleman

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MUD 261 Board Elections

The deadlines for the May 7, 2016 Directors Election are as follows:
Earliest date to file application for place on the ballot: January 20, 2016 (30 days prior to election)

Latest date to file application for place on the ballot: February 19, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications can be obtained from our office in January.

In order to be a MUD director, you must meet the following qualifications:

Must be 18 years of age, a resident of the State and either own land subject to taxation within the district or be a qualified voter of the district (§54.102 Texas Water Code). See Texas Water Code §49.052 for any disqualifications.

Please let us know if you would like any further information.

Terese Wahl

Legal Assistant

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The Women's Club of Woodwind Lakes Supplies Backpacks to School

In Photo (L to R) Cindy Sheen, Megan McCarty, Sharon Siebern

The Women's Club of Woodwind Lakes chose Reed Elementary as their community charity project. The club had previously supported a family at Reed, supplying Christmas gifts and food donations at Christmas and Easter. The Charity Committee contacted Reed counselor, Megan McCarty to find what would best serve the school. She indicated that they had begun a new program where each child is required to have a backpack and attach their student ID tag as well as carry home school papers and library books. Backpacks were scarce in stores such as Target and Wal-Mart since it was after the start of the school year but we were able to purchase 18 backpacks with the committee's budget from Academy. Cindy Sheen and Sharon Siebern delivered the backpacks to Ms. McCarty during the first week of school. Teachers and counselor were most appreciative and the Women's Club received a nice "Thank you" letter from the school. For the remainder of the year, our club will collect school supplies at each meeting and deliver them to Reed Elementary after Christmas and Easter breaks replenishing their supplies.



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