



Woodforest Gazette

August 2024

Board Meeting Conduct

1. The Board meeting is a meeting of the Directors of the Corporation.
2. As homeowners, you have a vested interest in your community, and you elected the Board members to take care of those interests.
3. Business matters come before the Board when a motion is made, and seconded. Each motion has a discussion period before a vote is taken. This discussion is to take place only between the Board members (and with management, if needed).
4. When a vote on a motion is taken, it is voted on by the Board members only.
5. If you would like an item to be considered by the Board to be on a future agenda for a decision, please submit your request or suggestion in writing at least a month before the next meeting. If you only want to verbally address the Board, you should plan on participating in the Open Forum portion of the meeting by calling the office and requesting to be added on the agenda for that meeting. (Note: The Board may be unable to make decisions on items until they have done the proper research and had time to consider their findings.)

REMOVAL OF TRASH CANS

It is your responsibility to store your trash cans properly. That means the driveway or side yard is only an acceptable location on your specific trash pickup days. **At all other times trash cans need to be out of sight and secure.** Poor trash retention has also uncovered a growing problem with local varmints foraging for food. Noncompliance with “trash can etiquette” may get you a violation letter and/or a fine if request(s) are ignored.

LITTERING IN WOODFOREST

The Woodforest Civic Association teamed up with Harris County FWSD #51 to create a Clean Streets Program in May 2017. Since that time we have a crew pick up trash on Monday’s and Friday’s every week on:

Normandy (from Woodofrest to Wallisville)

Woodforest (from Normandy to Beltway 8)

Uvalde (from Hollypark to Wallisville)

Freeport (from Hollypark to Uvalde)

Wallisville (from Normandy to Castlegory)



Littering and dumping has become a serious problem. The photo that you see here is only 1 (one) day of trash that was removed from our area. We know that as residents of Woodforest you take pride in keeping our neighborhood clean and kept up. Please help us in keeping our community clean and beautiful. Do not throw trash out of your vehicle or blow trash/debris into the streets. It is our responsibility to keep our neighborhood looking its very best!

TRASH SERVICE INFORMATION



OFS (Old Fashion Sanitation) is our sanitation/trash provider. The contact number for OFS is 281-457-2705.

Back door trash removal is included in your service. What that means is that your cans can be left on the side of the home near the setback line for trash removal. All heavy trash must be placed at the curb on the scheduled heavy trash day.

A few routine questions have been answered below for your convenience:

When is heavy trash pick-up? Your heavy trash pick-up is your second trash day of the week (Thursday, Friday or Saturday).

What will OFS (Old Fashion Sanitation) pick up? Household trash, yard debris if bagged, limbs if tied and bundled to specifications, appliance if at the curb on heavy trash day. They will pick up anything that is not construction material, metal, hazardous waste or anything that could damage the hydraulics in the truck.

Why was my trash not picked up? If you have something that is not bagged up properly, heavy items were put out on the wrong day or if your cans are over 35 gallons they will not be picked up.

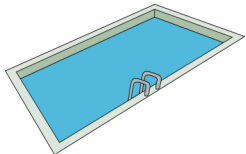
Please note that cans are to be removed from public view after your scheduled trash day. You should place your cans out the night before or first thing (before 6am) in the morning. Please respect your neighbors and neighborhood and remove your trash cans from public view after the trash has been removed.

Security in Woodforest

Over the past few months, we've been getting calls about various safety issues throughout the neighborhood.

It's important to understand that the HOA Board is not a policing force. We are your neighbors simply volunteering our time to help the community. We can't help you with your neighbors acting out, or if your car got broken into. All of these and other issues must be directed to the Harris County Sheriffs Department. However we DO encourage you to email or call the office so that we can keep track of any issues within our community, and relay all information to our community officer. Please understand, there isn't much we can do to enforce good behavior. Should you have any questions, please email or call the office at: woodforest@comcast.net or by phone at: 713-453-1503.

NEGLECTED POOLS



Neglected or "green" swimming pools pose a serious health threat to the residents of Woodforest. Mosquitoes use green backyard pools to breed and multiply into the millions. Neglected pools are a threat to public health because mosquitoes can carry West Nile virus, Zika virus, and other diseases that harm humans.

Mosquitoes only need one half (1/2) inch of standing water to breed and turn into biting adults. If you know of a green swimming pool in the neighborhood, please contact the Harris County Environmental Health Division at 713.274.6300 or our office at 713.453.1503. Be sure to have the property address when reporting a pool.

If you are the homeowner of a green pool, there are ways to rectify this violation and health hazard. You can hire a professional company to clean and keep up with the basic maintenance of your pool. Another option would be to drain and fill in your pool.

HURRICANE SEASON STARTS—JUNE 1ST IS THE START OF HURRICANE SEASON

Get a plan. The most important step is to identify your hurricane risk. You will need a plan on where you and your family would ride out a storm in the event of an evacuation. Once you understand the risk for hurricane impacts, an appropriate disaster safety plan should be developed to help ensure you and your family's safety. A disaster plan is a comprehensive plan that identifies all the steps a family needs to take to before, during and after a disaster to ensure maximum personal safety and property protection. For a step-by-step guide on creating a family disaster plan please follow the link:

<http://www.readyhouston.tx.gov/>.

THE DANGERS OF YARD CLIPPINGS AND OTHER DEBRIS

Did you know that storm water receives no treatment and flows directly to our creeks, rivers, bayous and ultimately Galveston Bay?

Storm water, or rain water, flows into the storm drains you see at street corners or into roadside ditches. Unlike the water that flows down the drains inside our homes and goes to sewage treatment facilities, storm water is not treated. Any garbage, grass clippings, dog excrement, and chemicals it picks up flows directly to our creeks, rivers, bayous and ultimately Galveston Bay. And that's something we all need to be concerned about because it pollutes the water we use for swimming, fishing and drinking.

It's a dirty shame what polluted storm water is doing to fish, plants and people.

Whether it's litter, garbage, or sediment washed in from construction sites, whatever goes down the storm drain flows directly into the environment. Trash like plastic bags, bottles and cigarette butts can choke or suffocate fish, turtles and birds. Silt can cloud the water and kill aquatic plants. Bacteria and chemicals can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, and sometimes cause beaches to close. And, household hazardous wastes such as used motor oil, paint and solvents can poison fish and shellfish and contaminate our drinking water. Just imagine the number of health issues that contaminated water can cause! It's not too late to make a difference. By making the connection between storm drains and our waterways, you've made the first step in keeping our water clean for you, your family and the entire community

The choice is clear. And you can help.

We all have a role to play in keeping our waterways clean. By understanding the problems and following the City of Houston's and Harris County's guidelines, you can decrease storm water pollution, help clean up our waterways and ensure a brighter future for us all.

At home, here are a few simple things you can do to help:

- Don't sweep grass clippings, leaves or yard waste into the street or storm drain.
- When walking your pet, pick up after your pet and put the waste in a bag that you put in your garbage at home.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers according to instructions • Do not over-water lawns and gardens. Over-watering can flush large quantities of pesticides, fertilizer, and soil directly into storm drains.
 - Purchase household and garden products that are "less toxic" to the environment.
- Repair car leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.
- Help educate your neighbors. Get a group together to mark storm rain inlets in your neighborhood with the "No Dumping, Flows to Galveston Bay" message.
 - Most of all - never throw anything down a storm drain that you wouldn't want to drink.

Not only does it pollute the waters, it can also cause residential flooding due to clogged drains. You may think "I don't blow my yard clippings into the drains" but if you are blowing them onto the street, the drains are where all the clippings/debris end up. Please be a responsible neighbor and resident and do not blow your yard clippings or other debris in the street or down a storm drain.

Get informed and get involved!

Clean water is all about prevention and being aware of behaviors that can lead to storm water pollution. Harris County and the City of Houston are here to help. For information on how to dispose of common household hazardous waste, less toxic alternatives, and proper use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, visit www.cleanwaterclearchoice.org or call 713.290.3000 today. It's worth getting involved!



ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

The 2024 Annual Meeting and Election for the 2025 Board of Directors for the Woodforest Civic Association, Inc. will begin at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024** at the Woodforest Civic Association located at 314 Freeport St. Houston, TX 77015 (location of this meeting subject to change at the discretion of the Woodforest Civic Association). This meeting will be in person. In order to enter, you must wear a face covering. Six positions on the Board of Directors will be available in this election for a term of two years. If you would like to be added to the ballot, please submit your request to the office no later than October 31th, 2024.

You can vote in person at the election or by proxy (if voting by proxy the person you authorize as your agent to vote must attend the meeting in order to vote on your behalf):

Current Candidates running:

- Holly Bretzke
- James Ballard
- Leigh Bennett
- Marisela Rodriguez
- Rhonda Hollins
- Kellaine Coleman

ASSIGNMENT OF PROXY

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INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this form only if you want someone who will attend the meeting to vote on your behalf as he or she deems worthy. You must write that person's name on the line below. Give this form to that person to carry to the meeting, **or drop it off at the WCA Office.**

PROXY ASSIGNMENT: I, the undersigned, appoint, direct and authorize _____, or his/her designee, as my agent and proxy to vote and otherwise represent me on any business at the meeting specified above and any adjournment or rescheduled meeting thereof with the same effect as if I were present. [This Proxy may be revoked by me at any time, prior to the conclusion of the voter registration portion of the meeting, if I personally attend said meeting or upon receipt by WCA of a written revocation of Proxy signed by the undersigned.]

Printed Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____

Property Address: _____

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

The By-laws of Woodforest Civic Association provide for an Architectural Control Committee to oversee the building and/or rebuilding of any structure on any lot in the Woodforest subdivision. This includes, but is not limited to pools, sheds, gazebos, painting, windows, roofs, sidewalks, fences, tree removal and driveways. If you are planning any kind of renovation of the outside of your home or lot, it is necessary to get an A.C.C form from the WCA office, fill it out and return it to the office. The A.C.C Committee will then determine if your project abides by the guidelines that are already in place. It is not necessary to get approval of any inside renovations, however, if you do not get approval from the A.C.C Committee for outside renovations, and proceed with your project, the project could be subject to replacement to its original state. Failure to comply could result in legal action as noted in our A.C.C. by-laws.

DANGEROUS DOGS

Dogs that meet the following criteria may be declared dangerous:

A dog that makes an unprovoked attack on a person that occurred in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept; or A dog that commits an unprovoked act in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that act would cause a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily injury. All dogs and cats, whether considered dangerous or not are prohibited from running loose in Harris County. Owners of loose dogs and cats may be cited by Harris County Sheriff's Deputies or Animal Control for failure to restrain your pet(s) at all times. Fines could run as high as \$500 for this offense.

HOW TO RESTRAIN YOUR PET

1. Keep your pet in your house.
2. Keep your pet in your fenced in yard.
3. Keep your pet on a leash led by a person capable of controlling your pet.
4. Keep your pet attached to a line not longer than 6 feet that will keep your pet from entering a public walkway or street. You know your pet isn't dangerous but the person walking past your house doesn't know that.

PLEASE OBEY THE LEASH LAW AND KEEP YOUR PET(S) RESTRAINED AT ALL TIMES TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF A TICKET RESULTING IN A FINE.

ILLEGAL SIGNS

Illegal signs are being posted in our community. The hardboard signs that state "Will buy your Home", "Home for Sale", "Earn High School Diploma." and "Tax information" are not allowed.

It is a Class C Misdemeanor Offense with a \$500 fine to post signs in our community. We can work together and take care of our street corners and light poles. If you see the signs, please take the time to stop, pick up the signs, and drop them off at the WCA office.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Harris County Sheriff's Dispatch - 713-221-6000 (non-emergencies) - Report suspicious activities, drug activity and/or gang activity.

Street Light Outages - 1- 800-332-7143—For location purposes, they will ask for the vertical pole number. Average response time 5 -7 days.

Health Department - 713-439-6000

Animal Control - 281-999-3191

Mosquito Control - 713-440-4800

Water District #51 - 713-637-8835

Office Hours:

Mon—Thur(8:00a.m—6:00p.m) closed
from 12p.m-1p.m.

Fri- 8:00 am- 12:00 pm

314 Freeport Street

Houston, TX 77015

Phone: 713-453-1503

Fax: 713-450-2920

Email: woodforest@comcast.net

2024 Board of Directors

Leigh Ann Bennett -President

Michael Broussard -1st Vice President

James Ballard- Vice President

Holly Bretzke—Treasurer

Cindi Nettles- Secretary

Maru Rodriguez

Lynda Hadnot

Rhonda Hollins

Vic Boudreaux

**Monthly Board Meetings are held at
the WCA Office on the second Tuesday
of every month at 6:30 p.m.**

2024 COMMITTEE CALENDAR:

**D/R Committee - first Thursdays,
monthly @ 6:30 pm at WCA Office.**

THANK YOU FROM THE WCA OFFICE

The WCA office would like to say thank you to the residents that have been emailing the office with deed restrictions concerns. We appreciate your feedback. I know we, as well as other Woodforest residents appreciate the hard work put into keeping the community clean and kept up.

We're on the Web!

www.WoodforestCivicAssociation.com

CREDIT CARD AND BANK CARD
(5.00 convenience fee per transaction)