



Woodforest Gazette

September & October 2024



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2024

National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2024 from 6-8pm. WCA is hosting the event at our office to encourage residents to gather and get to know one another. This night encourages neighborhoods nationwide to increase their own awareness of neighborhood protection. Come join us for great food and refreshments, prize drawings, local speakers, activities and facepainting for the kids. Also, the North Channel EMS will be at our location giving away free flu vaccinations. All residents will be registered to enable us to monitor the attendance. Anyone interested in donating items or gift cards from local area businesses, please contact the WCA Office.



SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN!



The Woodforest Civic Association is working with the Cloverleaf Fire Department to bring Santa to our neighborhood this year!

Mark your calendars because Santa will be arriving on Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 am. We have outlined the route he will be taking. Santa will be ending the trip at our location, located at 314 Freeport St. Houston, TX 77015. We will have cookies for the kids and Santa will be handing out candy. Please bring your camera to snap a photo of Santa with the kids in front of the firetruck!

We will be sharing the map via our website: woodforestcivicassociation.com as well as on social media platforms, nextdoor and facebook. Please share with your friends

and neighbors!

If any residents are interesting in decorating their vehicle or a trailer for the event, please contact our office by phone 713-453-1503 or email at woodforest@comcast.net and let us know, the more the merrier!

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL EVENT IDEAS



Got an Idea for a Neighborhood Social Event? If you have an idea for neighborhood social event, we want to hear it! The board is hoping to get residents to come up with some ideas for social events for this year. Call or email our office with your idea. This is our community, lets get involved to make it the best!
Email: woodforest@comcast.net Phone: 713-453-1503

TREES IN WOODFOREST

Trees are our friends. As a result, our concern for their livelihood is passionate. Even dead trees may not be cut down without prior written approval from the ACC committee of the Homeowners Association, and we require the planting of new ones to take their place. Healthy trees may not be cut down



HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Halloween is the highest candy sales day of the year with nearly 600 million pounds of Halloween candy sold and an average household spending of about \$44. Sadly, it is also the deadliest night for pedestrians with twice as many child pedestrians being killed while walking on Halloween as compared to any other day.

Here are some tips for a safe and spooky Halloween:



- H**ave a trusted adult aware of your plan before you leave. Map out where you are going in case of an emergency. Talk to your kids about Halloween night safety (only 1/3 of parents do!)
- A**s a driver, slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are very excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways. Anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- L**ook both ways before crossing the street. Walk on sidewalks and cross the streets at corners only.
- L**imit your social media sharing and whereabouts for the night. Don't overshare! Burglars have been known to take advantage of homes when they know they're empty.
- O**bserve all treats, and dispose of any that appear to have been opened, tampered with, or are not wrapped.
- W**ear "fitted" costumes to prevent tripping and blocked vision.
- E**nsure that older kids are trick-or-treating with a group of friends.
- E**nsure that your children carry glow sticks, flashlights, or wear reflective clothing when trick-or-treating in the dark.
- N**ever allow children to go trick-or-treating alone.



If you're expecting trick-or-treaters:

- Be sure walkways are clear and well-lit!
- Keep Halloween décor that is lit away from curtains, pets and small children.
- Encourage drivers to slow down as they pass by.
- Hand out "well-known" treats so parents don't become suspicious.



Keep your pets safe at Halloween night:

- Watch animals around lit pumpkins. A pet can easily knock over a lit decoration and start a fire. Especially cats are at a high risk for this.
- Keep pets in a separate room. The front door is a high traffic area. Doorbells and knocks can upset even friendly pets.
- Limit pet costumes. This can cause stress to your animal.
- Keep your pets away from candy, avoid placing bowls on the ground.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Please be respectful of your neighbors. We have received numerous complaints of loud music and noise into the late hours of the night.



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

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).

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: _____

WHEN SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?

We want to remind all residents how important it is to call the police for emergencies. The following is a guide for when to call 911 to report emergencies.

- You should only call 911 in an emergency. It is appropriate to call in circumstances where:
 - You hear or witness a shooting
 - An intruder is in your home
 - You or your neighbors house is on fire
 - You witness or are involved in a car accident
 - There is a crime in progress
 - Someone becomes dangerously ill
 - Someone is choking
 - Someone is unconscious
 - Someone is drowning
 - You see a sparking electrical hazard
 - Any threat of immediate danger

It is important that you call 911 in urgent emergency situations only. If you call 911 unnecessarily, or for a non-emergency, you might be tying up the operator's time while he or she could be providing assistance to someone who is in a life-threatening situation.

If you would like to report any neighborhood concerns or want clarification on who to call for what, please feel free to contact our office.



Are You Picking Up After Your Pet?

Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and to other pets. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter.

It is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. When walking your dog, take along a baggie with you to pick up waste with and then dispose of it properly. Also, when walking your dog in our community, remember that it must be leashed.

FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY

1. Keep your heating system in proper working order and have inspected for dangerous leaks yearly.
2. Keep fireplaces free of dangerous build ups that could catch on fire.
3. Install smoke detectors on each level and test them monthly.
4. Replace smoke detector batteries every 12 months or less.
5. Have a working fire extinguisher in the home and garage.
6. Be sure that your family practices fire drills and know escape routes in case of fire.

If a fire occurs in your home, get out, stay out and call for help.



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.