

Our most sincere  
"Thank You" to the  
**266**

households who  
responded to our 2017  
membership drive!

### Upcoming Dates:

- Movie in the Park —  
Saturday December 30  
at 7 pm
- Next Board Meeting —  
Saturday January 6 at 10  
am at the Park
- Annual WCA Member-  
ship Meeting and  
Dues Deadline —  
Tuesday February 13  
at 7 pm at the Moravi-  
an Church, 1525 W.  
State Road 434, Long-  
wood
- Easter in the Park—TBD

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## Newsletter

Dec 2017

The Woodlands Civic Association

### Why Join The Woodlands Civic Association (The WCA)?

The WCA mission is to protect the interests of The Woodlands community. By pooling the talent and funds of our members, we can:

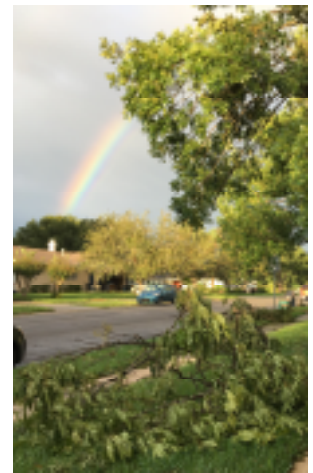
- Maintain common areas (entrances, grassy areas, walls/fencing, lighting, sprinklers, signs, including the American flag and much more)
- Oversee and maintain the five-acre WCA community Park, including recent refurbishment to the merry-go-round and swing sets
- Encourage communi-

ty spirit with social events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Santa's Ride and garage sales

- Keep neighbors informed via newsletters, our website and social media sites.

Additional membership is *critical* for us to cover irrigation and lighting repairs, comply with water backflow rules, and other unexpected expenses such as common area debris removal after Hurricane Irma. So much more we wish we could do!

We appreciate your support and help getting all 552 neighbors to join.



Hurricane Irma left its mark. When the sun finally came out — a rainbow!

A form attached to this newsletter can be used to join as a 2018 member.

### On the "Light" Side

Those who attended our Annual Meeting last February got a look at one of the old lantern lights that grace our entrance off SR 434. After much discussion and analysis, the Board has approved spending up to \$3,000 to

sandblast, repair, prime/paint, cut and replace the glass, and refit for LED, all twelve of these large lights using a Longwood-based vendor.

Board members Todd Burnett and Steve O'Toole, an electrician, are doing

the take-down, clean-up, and reinstall, all while teetering on a ladder in front of six lanes of traffic, while not breaking them! Oh, to be young again! Board member Antoinette Giunta sourced the job and negotiated our price.



If all neighbors joined the WCA we could do so much more, keep dues low and enhance property values.

## Oh, the Things We Could Do!

It's that time of year, once again, when we set our sights on the coming year.

Like each of us confronts in our own lives, the WCA board has a vision of what could be, but spends most of its time and resources on the more mundane.

We've had no shortage of great suggestions:

- Sponsoring awesome events at the Park

- Repainting the pavilion/repairing its roof.
- Fixing the old tennis courts or bathrooms
- Keeping a colorful, manicured entryway

The dilemma: without mandatory dues, we cannot count on all neighbors to help. We risk losing members by increasing dues, yet without more funds, we must stretch

the budget, round up volunteers, and in so doing may scare new members away!

**It's a misconception that the city/county maintains common areas. They don't!**

While barely half our neighbors join, we will always keep our chins up and do our best for the cause!

## Water Rate Increases

In a move that brought significant interest among consumers across Florida, on August 3, 2017 the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) granted approval for Utilities, Inc to consolidate operations and raise rates. Neighbors in The Woodlands have seen their monthly bills nearly double.

Lee Constantine, Seminole County Commissioner, has been adamant in his opposition to this increase. Seminole County's Attorney's Office

has sent a notice of appeal to the Florida's First District Court of Appeal on behalf of Seminole County citizens. Constantine recently circulated a letter urging residents to share information and remain vocal and informed.

He requests you file a complaint with the PSC at: <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/ConsumerAssistance/ComplaintForm>, by calling

1-800-342-3552, or via email to [contact@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us) (be sure to include "**Utilities, Inc. Florida Docket No. 20160101 approved rate increase request**") He will continue to offer updates to citizens who email him at:

[Lconstantine@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:Lconstantine@seminolecountyfl.gov)

WCA Board members Marilyn Horne and Antoinette Giunta were among residents heard at the PSC's February 2017 meeting.



Pam Hendricks, Todd Burnett and Winkie Woxberg brighten the day

## Holiday Cheer

Nothing sets the tone for the Holidays like cooler weather and a touch of garland, wreaths and bows.

We got things going earlier this year than last year — November 25th! In addition to Board members Pam Hendricks, Rosemary Mills and Todd Burnett, we were blessed

with the helping hands of two other neighborhood volunteers:

- Winkie Woxbert
- Jeff Hauser



Santa took his annual ride through The Woodlands

on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 pm.

Our elf-in-chief and Board member Antoinette Giunta made arrangements with the Seminole County Fire Department and the "big guy". Other elves, I mean neighbors, included Charlie Schomer, Gary Abrahams and Jess Webster.

## In Search of 2018 Board of Directors

Mark your calendars to attend the Woodlands Civic Association Annual Meeting, to be held Tuesday February 13, 2018 at 7 pm at the Moravian Church, 1525 W. State Road 434, Longwood.

We hope you will seriously consider joining the Board of Directors to fill vacating seats.

This past year, our nine

Board members, nearly all of whom are fully employed and stay active with work and family duties, have done their best to make service to neighbors a priority.

Any WCA member is urged to consider joining the Board, even if for no other reason, to get to know your neighbors better.

Bring your ideas and skills and help The Woodlands continue being the great community that attracted us here — some as many as 45 years ago!

For further information contact any of the current Board members.

Contact info appears at: <http://www.woodlands-fl.com/board-members>.

Should I join the Board?

- \\_(ツ)\_/ -

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”*

**Margaret Mead**

Our annual dues drive begins now! Please note that after more than 5 years we are increasing dues to \$75 for 2018 (unless you get it in by the end of the year!) Unexpected costs this year, like the increases in water rates and the clean-up of certain common areas after Hurricane Irma, have decreased amounts available to fund ongoing maintenance. We can keep future increases like this to a minimum if more Woodlands households join us as members of The Woodlands Civic Association.

Welcome to all new residents that have moved into our community in 2017. We encourage you to join the civic association and would encourage you to consider sitting on the Board.

## Playground Improvements

Be sure to check out our playground equipment's fresh new look.

In addition to a beautiful new finish, the old chains and other hardware was replaced.

Coming soon ...the infant seat.

Great thanks to Jessica Mooney and Tim Ivey for coordinating the work and giving up many hours to the cause.



Gleaming fresh paint adorns the merry-go-round



New chains and high-grade hardware outfit the seats



Sparkling clean seats on a bright frame

## A deed restricted community in Longwood Florida

### 2017 Board of Directors

Todd Burnett,  
*President*  
Antoinette Giunta,  
*Vice-President*  
Toni Law,  
*Treasurer*  
Rosemary Mills,  
*Secretary*  
Pam Hendricks  
Marilyn Horne  
Dan Johnson  
Joe Maenza  
Steve O'Toole

*We are a Tax Exempt  
Organization*

Please Join the WCA

Woodlands Civic Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 520721

Longwood, FL 32752-0721



To stay informed:

- make sure we have your email address (newsletters can't always be mailed)
- visit our website: [www.woodlands-fl.com](http://www.woodlands-fl.com)\*, and
- join: [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)

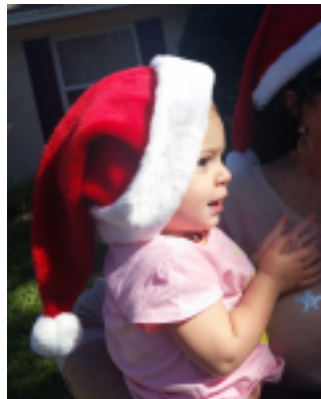
\* Thank you to O.J. Aldrich, our neighbor and webmaster

### From the President

Another year has come and gone and we are looking toward 2018.

We would love to see our membership GROW in the coming year so we can take more things off the wish list.

Help us encourage all neighbors to join the Woodlands Civic Association.



The magic of Santa, driving through the streets of The Woodlands!

And on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I'd like to wish you a "Merry Christmas", "Happy Hanukkah" and more generally "Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year" to each of our neighbors and members.

We hope your travels keep you safe, and friends and family bring you warmth.

— Todd Burnett