

# The Woodlands

March 2014

Post Office Box 520721; Longwood, Florida 32752

## Spring Has Sprung

It's that time again. Time to prepare our lawns for the growing season. Let's all show our pride and make a special effort to make the Woodlands a showplace! Now is a good time to prune non-flowering shrubs, trees and woody plants, remove accumulated debris and fertilize. Let's not stop in the front yard! It's also paint-up, fix-up and clean-up time. **Woodland's Pride is Hard to hide!**



## Welcome Committee Greet New WCA Members

The WCA Welcome Committee extends a warm greeting to all new residents of The Woodlands.

A very special welcome and thanks goes out to new home owners, Coury and Janice Knowles of 118 Sweetbriar Branch, Daniel and Jade Andersen of 227 Tollgate Trail, and new renters Joe and Caryn Salamy of 116 Foxridge Run, for their recent membership to The Woodlands Civic Association. Your support of the WCA will help maintain and improve your new community. In appreciation for joining the WCA, these new residents to The Woodlands received a First Alert fire extinguisher and gift card compliments of Home Depot of Lake Mary.

Please call *Welcoming Committee Director Antoinette Giunta* at (407)831-4105 or email [giunta1A@aol.com](mailto:giunta1A@aol.com) if you are new to The Woodlands or know of a new neighbor! We do not want to miss anyone!

## Be Part of the Solution to Storm Water Flooding and Pollution

The sewer system, storm water inlets, retention ponds, and lakes protect our neighborhood from flooding. The retention ponds and lakes provide needed water storage and water treatment to protect against pollution. By allowing leaves, grass clippings, trash and debris into the storm water runoffs, it will become clogged and stop up the sewer system. *Please, be a good citizen and neighbor and keep debris in your street cleaned-up, especially before it rains.*

**Woodlands Community**  
**Garage Sale**

***Saturday, May 3, 2014***  
***8:30am- 4:30pm***

# President's Letter

You have voted a new Civic Association Board! Elected as president, I enthusiastically embrace this year's goals and activities. Let me share them with you as well as introduce myself.

Many of you may already know me as the Woodlands' Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, but for those of you who have yet to make my acquaintance, I am Bonnie Eckman. I've lived in The Woodlands since 1992. I work as a registered nurse at Florida Hospital and love The Woodlands. As a "puppy mommy," I've been known to rescue too many Corgis and about 6 months ago, a Husky, who was found among the 434 construction!

Our 2014 WCA Board has met and we have formed goals, objectives and an action plan for our lovely community. Primary objectives, this year, will focus on increasing the quality of life and property values in The Woodlands.

How do we do this? We would like to once again sponsor events such as Easter in The Park, Garage Sales, Fall Festival, Santa's Ride thru The Woodlands as well as improvements such as new marquee, holiday decorations, landscaping, wall painting and park improvements. We would like to form a committee of affected residents to address a long-standing problem with electrical outages suffered by so many of us.

Additionally, we need to address quality of life issues such as code deficits, traffic and parking throughout the neighborhood. Much of what we're able to do in the way of "repairs and improvements" is directly proportional to our income.

Unlike a mandatory HOA that can slap you with assessments and increases, we have to come to you hat-in-hand and rely upon your sense of civic conscience to do the right thing and support your community. Over the years, I've heard a litany of reasons for not contributing - many of which the WCA has no control over.

Excuses such as, "a speed bump that the county installed, I don't like someone on the Board, I have a rat in my back yard, my neighbor has a chicken" etc. are not realistic reasons to not pay for the benefits they do receive. The lights stay on, new flags fly, the grass get cut, common grounds gets irrigated & trimmed, insurance & water bills gets paid, park gets maintained, basketball hoops get replaced, benches are replaced, entrances are painted & updated - all of which serve to maintain and improve the quality of life and property values.

The Woodlands can either age wisely and intelligently or poorly. Does your home reflect an attractive curb appeal? Are you a neighbor you would want to live next door to? What is it you can do to promote your community? Let's work together in protecting and promoting our property values.

Help us help The Woodlands by being a proud dues-paying member of your Civic Association. Hope to meet up with you soon!

Bonnie Eckman

## **MEET THE NEW 2014 WOODLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD!**

**Bonnie Eckman, President**  
(407)331-3837

**Toni Law, Secretary/Treasurer**  
(407)834-5556

**Lon Eckman, Director**  
(407)331-3837

**Antoinette Giunta, Director**  
Welcoming Committee  
(407)831-4105

**Joe Maenza, Vice President**  
(407)831-6708

**Corky Morris, Park Director**  
(407)332-6283

**Pam Hendricks, Director**  
(407)332-7064

### **Kudos Corner**

Hats off and a big thank you to our volunteers:

- Kristen Manieri for her newsletter expertise
- Anna Slavich for managing our marquee
- Ken Flynn for helping resurrect park benches
- Craig Clark for being an adjunct to so many of our efforts
- Jess Webster and Gary Abrahams for always volunteering
- Cody Spears for Yard of the Month
- Shawn Kiesling for pressure washing playground equipment and pavillion
- Richard Murray for refinishing park benches
- Roseann Devitt & Allene McClure for stuffing and sorting out the newsletters
- To the many who deliver our newsletter
- There is a lot of work but collectively we get it done because of our volunteers!

### **The Stray Cat Population in The Woodlands**

Many well-intentioned pet owners still find making the choice to spay or neuter their pet a difficult one. However the reality is, pets that are spayed or neutered typically live much longer, healthier lives and you are helping to solve the serious problem of pet overpopulation!

There are approximately 60 million feral and homeless stray cats living in the U.S. Many feral and homeless strays cats may carry potentially fatal diseases that can be passed on to your own cat if he or she comes into contact with them. Also, allowing your cats to roam outdoors can significantly shorten their lives to less than five years for males and only one to three years for females.

In comparison, an indoor cat can live as long as twenty years because they encounter far fewer life-threatening risks than outdoor cats. Outdoor cats face the constant threat of injury, starvation, poisoning, attack by predators, being struck by vehicles; they can even be stolen or abused by humans. Cats can live a very content life indoors with their families!

**Stop pet overpopulation by checking out one of the local low-cost Spay/Neuter programs:** <http://www.spayusa.org/assets/pdfs/cats-multiply-pyramid.pdf>  
<http://www.spayusa.org/assets/pdfs/spay-neuter-your-cat.pdf>

# Woodlands Civic Assoc.

## 2014 Membership Invoice

**We all know The Woodlands is a great place to live! It's time to support your community!**

It's time to renew your Woodlands Civic Association (WCA) membership. If you have not yet submitted your dues, you may do so by using this invoice.

While our yearly membership fee of \$65.00 is extremely low, we rely on everyone paying and your volunteerism. As The Woodlands ages, the need to maintain and update our community becomes so important in protecting property values from declining.

The WCA annual meeting was attended by less than fifty and brought only one new member to the Board. This is not good from a community of 550+ homes. Again, membership dues being paid and your volunteerism are necessary.

**If you are unable to volunteer but are able to pay an extra membership of \$65.00, it is greatly appreciated.**

Please exercise your civic duty and become a member of the WCA so that our neighborhood stays strong and safe. Your membership dollars support the day-to-day expenses for maintenance and improvement of the common areas. We do NOT pay expensive management fees.

Access cards to the park will be disabled on 3/31/14 if dues are not paid – please don't let that happen!

**Please clip and mail this coupon together with your payment of just \$65.00.**

**Thank you!**

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**Yes! I want to join my neighbors and keep The Woodlands safe and strong!**

I would like to get involved and would be interested in (see our Website for more volunteer positions available):

- Helping with Park Clean-up Day
- Delivering Woodlands Newsletters/Flyers
- Neighborhood Watch Block Captain
- Putting up Christmas Decorations
- Event volunteer
- Santa's Ride Coordinator
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**Woodlands Civic Association**

Post Office Box 520721

Longwood, FL 32752-0721

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please make checks payable to: Woodlands Civic Association. Indicate "Woodlands 2014 Dues"***

I would like a Park Access Card.  Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Easter in The Park

Who: Woodlands Residents  
Where: Woodlands Park  
When: April 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 - 10am to 1pm

Come join the fun! The Woodlands' Annual ***Easter in The Park*** is to include Easter Egg Hunts (age groups 0-2, 3-5 & 6-9), Games for older kids, Prizes, face painting, Cake and Lemonade. The Easter Bunny will be hopping around the park delivering and hiding the eggs. ***Who will find the Golden Egg?***

*Note: 2014 Paid Membership Members are welcome free of charge - for non-members a \$5 donation per family will be collected. This \$5 donation will apply to your annual membership dues if you want to join.*

*Memberships can be arranged for at the gate as you enter.*

*Please ~ No pets at this event --- might scare the Easter Bunny!*

## Time Is Running Out To Take Advantage Of The Discount!!

If you're still depending on Federal Pacific breaker panels to protect your home and family, a special discounted replacement program is being offered by Palmer Electric exclusively for The Woodlands' subdivision until May 1st. Ten Federal Pacific panels from The Woodlands' subdivision were removed and sent out for testing and 90% of the breakers failed. Many insurance carriers will not insure a home with Federal Pacific panels or may impose increases premiums. Check this out and watch the video on our web site:

[www.woodlands-fl.com](http://www.woodlands-fl.com)

## Neighborhood Watch

### How Thieves Break Into Homes by the Garage Door

For several years, home burglars have known how easy it is to get into a home by a roll up garage door, but the burglars who used this method are a small sub-set of thieves - until recently, as they way these thieves have operated has made its way to main stream internet reporting. As a homeowner, you need to know that a burglar can open a closed roll up garage door in seconds, while just using a small block of wood and a coat hanger.

Navigate to our web site, [www.woodlands-fl.com](http://www.woodlands-fl.com) to watch the video and learn more!

## News from the Park!

Let's take a moment to discuss the Woodlands Civic Association's park as there always seems to be some misunderstanding as to the nature of the park. First, and foremost, the park is **NOT** a public facility. It is not funded or maintained by Seminole County or The City of Longwood. To the contrary, the property is leased from the Greater Construction Company of Florida by the Woodlands Civic Association Inc. for the use and enjoyment of its members.

***Members are those people who pay their dues to the WCA not simply reside within the subdivision.***

It is their dues that pay for the upkeep, improvements, utility expenses and insurance for the park.



In the early years here in the Woodlands there was a very high level of participation in WCA and the park showed it. Over the years, the WCA has struggled with fewer residents willing to participate and pay their dues. This, coupled with the ever rising cost of maintenance and repairs, makes it difficult to keep this a clean and safe place for our families to enjoy. Keep in mind that the park is not just a playground but it is an asset - an actual to our property values. A well-maintained recreation area is a strong selling point just as are streetlights, sidewalks, schools and nearby services. When the time comes to sell your home, isn't it worth 18 cents a day to pay for the upkeep of our front and rear entrances as well as the park?

Our Park Director for 2014 is the *one and only*, Mr. Corky Morris.

Corky is a long time Woodlands' resident and WCA member who lives right on the park. He is your "Go To" guy when you need to set a date for your party, company picnic or team event! Send your date request s via our web site [www.woodlands-fl.com](http://www.woodlands-fl.com).

So come on down to the park and walk the dog, fly a kite, spin the kids on the merry go round or shoot some hoops or just or say "hey" to Corky and his trusty sidekick, Midnight, the dog. Everyone who is anyone knows Midnight!

**CLEANING**  
Regular cleaning, move in-out, one time cleaning, office cleaning and more

Don't stress the house mess, call me!

**J. Kelly**  
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110 Little Wekiva Ct  
Longwood, FL, 32779

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# **SEMINOLE COUNTY PARKING CODES**

## **Sec. 250.70. - Parking not to obstruct traffic.**

No person shall park any vehicle upon a street, other than an alley, in such a manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than 12 feet of the width of the roadway for free movement of vehicular traffic.

## **Sec. 250.72. - Parking for certain purposes prohibited.**

No person shall park a vehicle upon any street or highway for the principal purpose of: Displaying such vehicle for sale.

Maintenance or repair of such vehicle, except repairs necessitated by an emergency.

Selling merchandise or services.

## **Sec. 250.74. - Parking near a mailbox.**

No person shall park a vehicle in such a manner as to interfere with or obstruct a mailbox. All state and federal regulations regarding mailbox placement and mail delivery shall apply.

## **Sec. 250.75. - Truck parking in residentially zoned districts.**

No trucks having a rated load limit of more than two tons or having more than two axles may be parked or stored in any residentially zoned area other than to load or unload merchandise; nor may any truck of any size, which has operating motorized cooling units, be permitted to be parked in any residentially zoned area.

## **Sec. 250.76. - Parking of unlicensed vehicles.**

No person shall park a vehicle that is required to display a license tag upon any street or highway unless said vehicle is displaying a valid current license tag.

## **FLORIDA STATUTES**

MOTOR VEHICLES Chapter 316

### **316.1945 Stopping, standing, or parking prohibited in specified places**

(1) Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device, no person shall:

(a) Stop, stand, or park a vehicle:

1. On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street
2. On a sidewalk.
3. Within an intersection.
4. On a crosswalk.