

JANUARY 2017

THE Woodlands



**The Woodlands Civic Association, P.O. Box 520721,
Longwood, FL 32752-0721 • www.woodlands-fl.com**

Your 2016 WCA Board Members

President	Todd Burnett	407-416-6457	spork351@gmail.com
Vice President	Antoinette Giunta	407-831-4105	giunta1a@aol.com
Secretary	Rosemary Mills	407-257-2785	rqmills@cfl.rr.com
Treasurer	Toni Law	407-834-5556	tlaw117@cfl.rr.com
Director	Pam Hendricks	407-332-7064	billpamp@cs.com
Director	Daniel Johnson	407-617-9807	djpercussion@gmail.com
Director	Joe Maenza	408-831-6708	jmaenza@cfl.rr.com



WCA ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH AT 7:00 PM

ROLLING HILLS MORAVIAN, 1525 W.SR 434, LONGWOOD



The Annual Meeting is a perfect opportunity for residents to get together and learn about the efforts on behalf of the community, express concerns or make suggestions. Your participation is important due to the fact that some of the present Board of Directors will not be remaining for another term.

Can you devote a couple of hours a month to be part of the Board of your civic association? You

will find that you come to know some great neighbors that you might not otherwise have met, take part in some community events, and most importantly, help make needed decisions to keep The Woodlands a great place to live! Anyone who's thinking about serving is encouraged to call any board member to talk it through.

We hope you are able to attend the meeting!

Special Guest Speaker

Seminole County Sheriff's Officer Deputy Gary Richards will address the Annual Meeting of the Woodlands Civic Association. Deputy Richards will discuss crime prevention and how best to protect your property and family. Learn the crime statistics of The Woodlands and that of the area for the past year. Here is your opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns!



Coming Soon

January: WCA Membership Annual Renewal, Join or Renew for only \$65.00 yearly.

February 2 at 9:30 AM: Customer Service Hearing for Utilities, Inc. Customers wishing to testify relative to rate increases designed to fund improvements to aging water infrastructure. Eastmonte Civic Center 830 Magnolia Drive Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. A Related petition is being circulated.

February 7 at 7:00 PM: Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Woodlands Civic Association, Inc. at the Moravian Church, 1525 W. State Road 434, Longwood. Annual 2017 dues must be paid by the this date in order for regular members to vote at the meeting. Memberships accepted at the door.

February 15: Park Access Card deactivation for non-renewal

Date to be decided: Easter in the Park.

Date to be decided: Movie Night (new event)

Newsletter Authors/Editors: Rosemary Mills and Antoinette Giunta

Newsletter Designer: Abe Fried

Message From the President

As the new year begins, I want to wish the families of The Woodlands all the best in 2017. In looking back at our accomplishments over the past year, my second year as your President, we've seen a lot of improvements from the front entrance landscaping project completed in November to hosting an even bigger crowd at our second Halloween event in the WCA Park.

We entered 2016 retaining five Board members out of seven, and it was great to add Joe Maenza back to the Board and get to know our new neighbor Dan Johnson who also joined the Board. With Joe's help, we once again have working software for our gate access to the park. Hopefully, we have resolved all issues with the park access experienced by some members. Our new Woodlands' website went live, adding an option to pay with PayPal, speeding along the payment while offering convenience and safety to our members.

Earlier in the year we had a broken pipe under the park pavilion flooring and were able to get that repaired right away with help from our neighbors. We dealt with extensive irrigation system repairs and a complex electrical problem. All our faulty electrical units have now been brought up to code! But, our biggest and unexpected expenditure for the year was a mandatory installation of backflow inhibitors at six locations within our water system, mandated by the water company. And as you probably noticed, we painted the letters on our Woodlands signs (front and rear entrances) back to black again, and such a simple change has drawn a lot of positive feedback. Thank you!

Our neighborhood was created in a time before mandatory Homeowner Associations (HOAs) were common, yet without the support from members of the Woodlands Civic Association, there would be no funds to add plants, water them, repair lighting, and, every several years, clean and paint the walls. We couldn't keep the park mowed, spray for bugs or deter vandalism. Membership funds also allow us to sponsor events for the children such as Easter in the Park, Santa's Ride and Halloween in the Park.

Beyond the funds generated by membership, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the "value" created by the number of neighbors who volunteer to make our events memorable. Some of our neighbors can be relied upon year in year out, and even small things are so greatly appreciated. We are always happy to rally new volunteers to keep our community activities moving. Let us know if you have a particular skill suited to help us get things done.

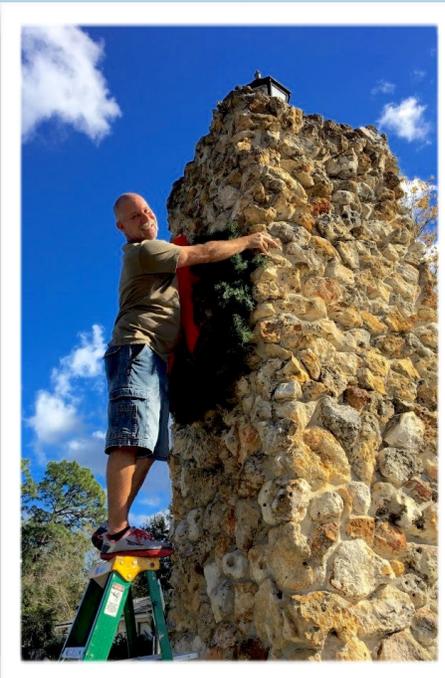
With your help in increasing membership and volunteerism, we can do so much more!

I hope to see everyone on February 7th at the Annual Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Moravian Church, 1525 W. State Road 434, Longwood!!

Todd Burnett

President, The Woodlands Civic Association

Todd Burnett, taking down a wreath.



Please join or renew your membership in the WCA for the low annual amount of \$65 for 2017. You will find a membership form on the back of this newsletter, or use the new PayPal feature at: www.woodlands-fl.com. Also, have a look at our Volunteer and Skills Wish List and see if you can squeeze in an hour or two here and there for your community. The more members and volunteers we have, the easier it is on all of us and the more we can strengthen the community with continued improvements and events.

Volunteers and Skills Needed

The Woodlands Civic Association's most valuable asset is the collective knowledge and effort of its volunteers whether it be serving as a member of the Board of Directors, or contributing time in any number of areas of interest or skills. While this list is not exhaustive, it shows how many ways to volunteer even small amounts of time in the area of Communication, Grounds, Membership, Events and Governance. You never know what skills may come in handy if you join the Board or volunteer to help with something. For example, we are using an old (and slightly confusing) map of the neighborhood broken into zones for dividing up newsletter delivery. Any expert cartographers in our midst with a few hours to spare?

Skills/Occupation

- Handyman
- Green thumbs
- Good@getting freebies
- Attorney
- Painter
- Organizers
- People persons
- Medical
- Social Media
- Bug people
- Outdoor types
- Walkers
- Computer/web
- Real estate
- Radio voice (bullhorn)
- Finance
- Diplomacy
- Law Enforcement
- Pressure washer
- Irrigation
- Tree Trim
- Design
- Editor
- Other

Volunteer Activities

Communications	Newsletter	Draft Content	Events	Easter	Set Date/coordinate with Sheriff's Of
Communications	Newsletter	Edit, Format and Finalize	Events	Easter	Get on Easter Bunny's calendar
Communications	Newsletter	Replicate, Staple, Fold or Roll	Events	Easter	Event Yard signs at "T minus one wee
Communications	Newsletter	Delivery on Foot in 8 one-hour zones	Events	Easter	Put candy into eggs
Communications	Newsletter	Post copy on Website	Events	Easter	Games, Plan and MC
Communications	Newsletter	Update neighborhood map	Events	Easter	Refreshments, Plan Shop Serve
Communications	Marquis	Update as needed (1x/mo)	Events	Easter	Secure ice donation / bring ice in coo
Communications	Marquis	Maintain (clean, paint, replace)	Events	Easter	Décor-set-up, take down and store
Communications	Facebook	Page Manager	Events	Easter	Collect dues and donations
Communications	Facebook	Contribute Content (Photos, Tips)	Events	Easter	Collect eggs/at end, return to storage
Communications	Facebook	Post events	Events	Garage Sale	Set dates/publicize Spring/Fall event:
Communications	Nextdoor.com	Official Lead	Events	Garage Sale	Hang sign (front of neighborhood) 1
Communications	Nextdoor.com	Poll Neighbors when needed	Events	Halloween	Food, Shop for Hot Dogs, Candy, H2O
Communications	Nextdoor.com	Block content when needed	Events	Halloween	Event Yard signs at "T minus one wee
Communications	Website	Maintain and pay site host	Events	Halloween	Costume contest, Plan and MC
Communications	Website	Receive / post content as necessary	Events	Halloween	Cook hot dogs
Communications	Website	Paypal functionality	Events	Halloween	Secure ice donation / bring ice in coo
Communications	Website	"contact us" functionality	Events	Halloween	Tend to the food area during event
Communications	Website	Maintain email roster and manage opt-outs	Events	Halloween	Décor, set-up and take down
Grounds	Irrigation	Repairs, as needed	Events	Halloween	Collect dues and donations
Grounds	Irrigation	Test working order / coverage	Events	Holiday Décor	Twinkle lights, garland and wreaths u
Grounds	Lighting	Bulb replacement, sometimes on a tall ladder	Events	Holiday Décor	Twinkle lights, garland and wreaths d
Grounds	Lighting	Clean and maintain lanterns	Events	Santa's Ride	Set Date/coordinate with Fire Depart
Grounds	Lighting	Lantern replacements (next date ~2017)	Events	Santa's Ride	Get on Santa's calendar
Grounds	Flagman	Fly flag, monitor dates for half mast	Events	Santa's Ride	Candy throwers
Grounds	Back Wall	Periodic trim foliage away from wall	Events	Santa's Ride	Event Yard signs at "T minus one wee
Grounds	Back Wall	Major repaint project (next date ~2019)	Events	Santa's Ride	Shop for candy
Grounds	Mowing	Solicit bids, set requirements/expectation	Events	Santa's Ride	Thank you's for non-volunteer helper
Grounds	Mowing	Monitor performance, give feedback	Events	Santa's Ride	Disseminate route map (facebook, et
Grounds	Bugs	Schedule bug treatment for major events	Events	Movie Night	Technician (Sound, Video, Electrical)
Grounds	Park	Empty trash ~ 3x per month	Events	Movie Night	Shop for popcorn and soda (Hot choc
Grounds	Park	Pressure wash pavillion 2 x per year	Events	Movie Night	Break down equipment and clean-up
Grounds	Park	Pressure wash/sand blast playground equip	Events	Yard of the Month	Nominate monthly yard or best déco
Grounds	Park	Repaint playground equipment in 2017	Events	Yard of the Month	Take photo and send to webmaster
Grounds	Park	Replace basketball netting ~annually	Governance	Annual Meeting	Set Date, Line up Facility
Grounds	Park	Gate and lock maintenance	Governance	Annual Meeting	Maintain roll of members and others
Grounds	Park	Access software / keycard manager	Governance	Board of Directors	Set meeting dates/alternate dates
Grounds	Park	Scheduling/paperwork for sports teams	Governance	Board of Directors	Prepare minutes, approval, post on v
Grounds	Park	Maintain calendar for pavillion parties	Governance	Board of Directors	Bookkeeping for dues and expenditu
Grounds	Park	Mulch, particularly near playground	Governance	Board of Directors	Make sure tax return is done each ye
Grounds	Park	Minor improvements (concrete walks)	Governance	Board of Directors	Treasurer's report on membership ar
Grounds	Park	Rebuild park message board	Governance	Board of Directors	Coordinate volunteers
Membership	Welcome	Periodic review of scpafl.org for new owners	Governance	Board of Directors	Liaise with Seminole Co. Code Enforc
Membership	Welcome	Visit new neighbors to promote membership	Governance	Board of Directors	Insurance policy review/renewal
			Governance	Board of Directors	Establish/enforce park rules

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Ponder This



Hat's off to neighbor, Marilyn Horne, for her diligence in remedying a hazardous condition that developed with a neighborhood pond. The pond had become choked by weeds and trash, and was unsafe and unsightly. Conditions were far worse than nearby homeowners could handle themselves, the County determined. Here's the letter from Marilyn Horne that describes the problem as well as the cooperation and assistance received from Seminole County:

Thank You Seminole County for Saving our Pond!

There is a beautiful little pond between the homes on Foxridge Run, Hickory Tree and Penelope Drive. However, in the past two years something had gone terribly wrong with the water flow. It became murky and choked with duckweed, alligator grass, and huge amounts of trash that had started washing into the pond every time it rained. It looked like a garbage dump! And the neighbors who live around the pond did not know what to do to fix the problem.

Antoinette Giunta, one of our Woodlands' Board Members, suggested we contact Gloria Eby, the Lake Management Program Coordinator for Seminole County. And from there on we were amazed at the help we received from a long list of dedicated professionals.

Gloria Eby came to the Pond for a meeting on a sweltering morning in June, and gave great insight into the pond's environmental problems. Gloria had asked Kathy Moore, Manager of the MSBU Program to attend and help assist with the trash problem. We decided that we needed to address the trash problem first. Within a few days, Kathy Moore sent me contact information for Owen Reagan, Division Manager of the Stormwater Management Division. He came to the pond on an equally sweltering morning in July to assess the problem first hand! He agreed we needed a system to stop the trash flowing in and help with the water flow. He sent Stormwater Crew #450 – Joe Tamulonis, Dennis Cloyd, Brian Riley, and Mike Johnson, who were amazing and worked tirelessly every day in 100 degree plus weather.

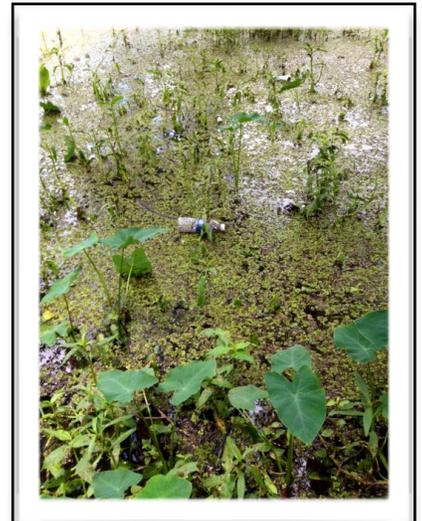
Within a few weeks, the stormwater drains were flushed out, and trash catchers were installed where the storm water enters the pond. The old metal outfall (outflow) structure had completely rusted out, and was choked with weeds, blocking water flow in the pond and keeping trash in. The crew discovered this and completely replaced the old system with a new, concrete structure. They brought a back hoe and dredged out the weeds around the outflow system so the water is now free to flow. It works very well! The pond cleared up within days and there is no more trash. It is back to being the beautiful, tranquil pond that I have always enjoyed.

Our next step is to add "weed eating carp" to help keep the weeds under control. Thank you, Joe Tamulonis for the great idea!

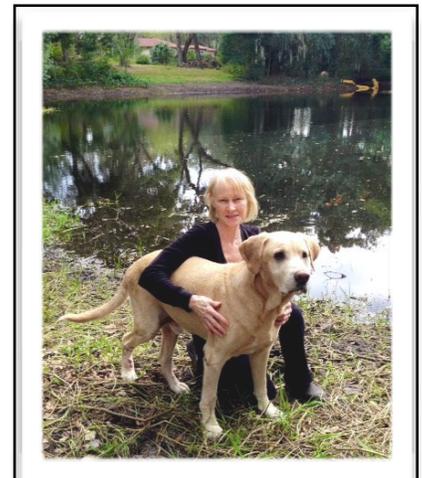
***Marilyn Horne
Foxridge Run***

We join Marilyn in thanking all the Seminole County personnel who allowed neighbors living along the pond and wildlife to enjoy it once again.

Pond Before



Pond After



Marilyn Horne and Axel enjoying the improvements.

Farewell and good luck



It's with much appreciation that the WCA thanks Ellis (Corky) and Stephanie Morris, who after many years, are giving up their volunteer duties as WCA Park coordinators and will be moving to be closer to their grandchildren.

During the 38 years living in The Woodlands, they both had volunteered for numerous community projects and activities. Stephanie served as Board President in 1994, newsletter editor for a number of years, handled the reservations for the pavilion and the scheduling of the tennis courts, back when the tennis club was in full swing. Corky served as President in 1983 and more recently in 2013 and 2014, served again, as a member of the Board of Directors. Daily, you could always find Corky with his black lab, Midnight, doing something to improve the appearance of the park or just cheerfully greeting park visitors.

Thank you, Corky and Stephanie, for the many years of service and dedication to the WCA and to The Woodlands!



New Volunteer Park Coordinator!

Thank you goes out to neighbor, Steve Harmon, who has volunteered to assume the duties of Park Coordinator!



For the health of your lake

Many of our neighbors are lucky enough to live on the natural ponds and lakes in our midst. Nothing is more serene than a healthy lake teeming with birds, fish and other wildlife. But life on a lake provides a good reminder of the obligation we all share to take care of our environment.

Have you ever wondered where all the water goes after a storm? We have such heavy rains in Central Florida that our streets can flood very quickly, running down the storm drain into our neighborhood lakes. Generally, these lakes are maintained by the homeowners living along the lakes, not the county. It is important, to clear roadside gutters of

thick leaves so as not to allow the rain to wash them down, and potentially clog the storm sewers. Leaves add a large amount of nutrients into the lakes fertilizing weeds, allowing algae to thrive and bloom out of control, and possibly suffocating fish and other aquatic life. Harmful things like oil, pesticides, fertilizers, and even swimming pool drainage, etc., should not be allowed into the storm drains. Be a good neighbor so we don't have clogged drains and smelly areas in our neighborhood from algae, dead fish, etc.

Thank you, Pam Hendricks

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The Woodlands Civic Association Terms and Conditions of Park Usage



The WCA Recreation Area (WCA Park) is maintained and operated by the Woodlands Civic Association for the sole use and enjoyment of current paid members in good standing and their guests. In order to have and maintain the privilege and use of the WCA Park and Pavilion, association members must agree to the following stipulations of usage:

- The Park is closed from dusk to dawn. Trespassers will be reported to the Seminole County Sheriff.
- Park access cards are solely for the use of WCA members and their immediate household, and are not to be lent to non-members.
- All guests are to be accompanied by an association member.
- No children under the age of 13 years old are allowed without adult supervision.
- No alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons are permitted within the park.
- No motorized vehicles are permitted, unless authorized (with exception of motorized devices for the handicapped).
- A member's household shall be allowed up to five (5) guests at a given time. Groups of more than five (5) guests will be considered a party or a sports team, based on its activity.
- Sports/teams will be issued a separate Sports/Teams Membership with the submission of proof of insurance and signed contract. Teams requesting access to the field may do so by going to the website at: www.woodlands-fl.com, then click "contact us."
- The game of baseball is not permitted to be played in the park.
- WCA members may reserve the pavilion for private events at: www.woodlands-fl.com, click on "neighborhood info" then "reserve the pavilion." Any organized use, such as a private party, must be scheduled in advanced with the park coordinator and approved, in order to avoid any conflict of use. **Please note:** a refundable \$25 deposit is required to reserve the pavilion and will be refunded provided, all trash generated from the event is removed from the park by the member following the event; the pavilion is left in good condition; and the barbecue grills, if used, are cleaned. (Request may be subject to a fee of \$25 to offset additional costs Example: extra water usage for the use of a water slide at the event.)
- Members' dogs are permitted only if dog owners abide by the "Dogs in the Park Rules" found on the website at: www.woodlands-fl.com. Note: An aggressive dog must be immediately removed from the park. All dog owners are legally and financially responsible for their dog's behavior. The WCA will not be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog in the park.
- Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs and removing their dog's waste from the park.

The WCA, its Board of Directors, or volunteers, are not responsible for any personal injury, property loss, or damage sustained while utilizing the WCA Recreation Area.

Any misuse, defacement, destruction of park equipment or facilities, or the violation of park rules will result in the permanent revocation of park access and privileges. Violators will be responsible for compensation to the WCA for all damages.

Violations Should Be Reported To The WCA Board!

DOGS IN THE WCA PARK

Rules and Standards of Use

The Woodlands Civic Association, Inc., shall NOT be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog in The WCA Park. Each dog owner is legally and financially responsible for their dog's behavior.

Upon entering The WCA Park, it is agreed that the dog owner must abide by park rules. Violation of park rules may result in permanent loss of park privileges.



GENERAL RULES:

HOURS: The WCA Park closes at dusk

- The WCA Park is a private park for WCA Members only. Only dogs of WCA Members are permitted access to The Park.
- A maximum of 3 dogs per Member are allowed at one time in The Park, unless accompanied by another adult.
- Dogs should be kept at least **25ft** from the pavilion, the children's playground equipment, and all play areas; if children are present.
- ALL dogs must be under owners control and within voice range at all times, if not, those dogs will need to be leashed at all times.
- Dogs shall **not** harm humans, other dogs, other animals, or any wildlife.
- **Dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior must immediately be removed from the park.**
- If a dog inflicts any type of injury, the dog's owner is required to give name, address, phone number, and proof of vaccination to injured party before leaving The Park.
- Dogs are required to have an up-to-date Seminole County Animal license.
- Dogs must be up-to-date on all vaccinations and wear proof of current vaccination and county license tag on their collar at all times.
- **Puppies younger than 4 months old are not permitted in The Park**, for the health of the puppy and for the health of other dogs. (At 4 months of age, puppies must have completed the standard schedule of puppy vaccines and de-worming treatments before entering The Park.)
- The dog owner/guardian must not leave The Park without their dog(s), for any reason.
- All pet waste must be collected by the dog's owner/guardian and must be taken home!
- **The Park receptacles are NOT to be used for disposal of pet waste.**

*Violations Should Be Reported To The WCA Board!



Beautiful January morning, showing our new improved landscaping and black lettering at the 434 entrance

Halloween in the Park



Special thanks to neighbor and former Board member Jessica Mooney for continuing the tradition of a neighborhood Halloween event. It was great seeing everyone and all the great costumes. We loved seeing the adults join in the fun with costumes of their own.

Santa's Ride through the Woodlands

Thank you to all the volunteers making this popular event a success, including Santa of course, neighbors Jess Webster, Gary Abrahams and former neighbor William Seward, and the Seminole County fire department.

Our neighbor and WCA Board member Antoinette Giunta has done such a great job lining everything up and must have some tremendous pull with the jolly old guy. True to form, the fire department had to rush off to an emergency, but was back on our streets treating the children of The Woodlands to some goodies. Jess and Gary volunteer many times throughout the year, whenever needed!





Membership in the WCA in 2016 was 275 residences, only half of a neighborhood of 552 homes. Fueled only by the desire to have a great Community, the WCA is a non-profit organization founded in 1971, and has always focused on making The Woodlands an exceptional place to live.

Joining us in 2017 still only costs \$65 whether as a Member or Associate Member*. We even have a few generous members that contribute extra each year, which is greatly appreciated. All members are entitled to access the 5-acre WCA Park, to enjoy watching your children on the playground equipment, running with your dogs, playing basketball, flying a kite, or just taking a brisk lap around the field. Members may also reserve the park pavilion for parties and events. For more information about getting a park card, contact Todd Burnett at 407-416-6457. Lost or damaged park cards can be replaced for \$10. Previously deactivated cards are able to be reactivated with our renewal. Pavilion information is available on our website at <http://www.woodlands-fl.com/reserve-the-pavillion.html>

Please help us grow by spreading the news about the Park and the other work we do to keep The Woodlands a great place to live!

Thank you to the 173 Woodlands households who have already submitted their 2017 dues.

* Defined in our by-laws, Associate Members are generally non-resident owners, or residents that don't own, or others who want to participate.

We are pleased to see the increase in the number of neighbors using a free online social network, called NEXTDOOR.COM

Neighbors from The Woodlands and other nearby neighborhoods share news and community events, recommendations, safety issues and more. Seminole County Community Relations and the Sheriff's Office also post information and alerts on Nextdoor. Over 370 neighbors (280 households) are currently enrolled, compared to 150 neighbors (128 households) a year ago.

NEXTDOOR.COM is not affiliated with the Woodlands Civic Association.



2017 ANNUAL WCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE JOIN THE WCA TODAY TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY!

Membership Dues - Only \$65.00 annually

*Please make checks payable to: **Woodlands Civic Association, Inc.***
Mail to: Woodlands Civic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 520721, Longwood, FL 32752-0721

PLEASE PRINT

Name 1: _____ Name 2: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Best time to be reached: _____

- () I have never received a WCA Park Access Card and would like one.
- () Please contact me, my Access Card is () lost () damaged (Replacement Fee: \$10.00)
- () Yes, I would like to volunteer to help my community. See our Volunteer and Skills Wish List for the many ways you can get involved.

You may contact me when needed for the following Job(s): _____

To pay on-line by credit or debit with safe and easy PayPal go to: www.woodlands-fl.com