

May 2011

# MEMORIAL DAY

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MAY 30th

*Memorial Day is around the corner.  
Please pause to honor our military troops both past and present,  
And have a safe Memorial Day Weekend!*

## BURN BAN NOTICE

Effective April 19, 2011 a **90-Day Burn Ban** has been imposed by Harris County officials for all unincorporated areas of the county. All open fires are prohibited and are defined as a fire that does not control flames, sparks and/or embers; such as clearing brush or building campfires. According to the Fire Marshal, backyard cookouts are allowed, but must be done in enclosures that fully contain all flames and sparks. Regardless, due diligence should be applied to provide constant surveillance when monitoring any outdoor cooking to ensure the safety of neighbors and property. **A burn ban violation is a misdemeanor and carries up to a \$500 fine.**

### May Yards of the Month

The Yards of the Month for May are Mr. and Mrs. Manriquez at 13335 Holly Park and Mr. and Mrs. Hattaway at 14423 Waterville.



## BROTHER-IN-LAWS BARBEQUE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Due to a miscommunication and a deadline to go to print, we apologize that we were unable to remove last month's article announcing the closure of Brother-In-Laws in a timely manner. Emails were immediately sent to homeowners who have email addresses on file, releases were posted both on the website and at the Office. The optimistic "silver lining" is after the first week's massive social network and media blitz, the outpouring of concern and support has been astonishing. A previously written statement from the owner is included here in its entirety:

*"To all the customers who have come out to show love and support to keep Brother-In-Laws open, we want to say thank you. The number of customers that have come in or called has been unbelievable. We really thought this would be our last week open but with all the outpour of business we will not close at this time. If business continues to increase we will stay open for as long we can. I do not want to close! I am too young to retire and I am too old to find a job, Again, THANK YOU SO MUCH, Buddy Carney". We all take our favorite places for granted in hard times, but remember that it takes customers to stay afloat. Let's continue to show our efforts to support this establishment!*



## WCA Financial Report

### Deposits Disbursements



	\$ 29,039.57
	\$ 88,101.17
Rent (April)	\$ 776.89
Utilities	\$ 1,723.58
elec, water, sewer, tele, internet, copy machine lease, postage meter lease, alarm monitoring	
Street lights (March)	\$ 10,804.09
Garbage Pickup (March)	\$ 38,737.02
Legal	\$ 11.94
Security Patrol (5 wks)	\$ 2,100.00
Payroll (5 wks)	\$ 4,677.95
Payroll Taxes	\$ 0.00
Cul-de-sac Maintenance (Mar/Apr)	\$ 1,109.34
Landscaping and Plants	\$ 24,943.77
Landscape Maintenance (April)	\$ 775.00
Newsletter –Apr(printing, supplies, postage)	\$ 1,361.64
Computer support (April)	\$ 79.95
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 0.00
Earnest Money/Bid	\$ 1,000.00

## Committee Reports

*[Note: All Committee Members are asked to sign a Statement of Intent for Committee Involvement.]*

**Deed Restriction/ACC:** There are 217 open violations. The Committee approved nineteen (19) ACC Request Forms. *[Next meeting: Thurs, May 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm]*

## Community Awareness:

**Beautification Committee:** Volunteers are needed to assist with picking up bandit signs from area esplanades and garage sale signs that are left on street corners after Saturday and to nominate Yard of the Month addresses to be considered.

*[Next Meeting: Thurs, May 19th @ 6:30 pm]*

\* **Yard of Month** - See an exceptional yard? Call or email the office with addresses of your favorites.

• **Block Captains Committee** – Block Captains met on Thursday, April 28, 2011. This committee meets on a quarterly basis; all interested persons are encouraged to join. *[Next meeting: Thurs, July 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm]*

• **The Good Neighbor Program** – To be a good neighbor, interested volunteers are needed to willing provide minor “honey-do” assistance. This committee is intended for MINOR issues around the home and the homeowner must supply materials. Large, time consuming projects that require contractors is not the intent of this assistance program.

## Meeting Highlights

- Although there were no homeowners present, both our security officer and a representative from WCOP (Woodforest Citizens On Patrol) were on hand to update the board on issues within our community and answer any questions or concerns. Renewed focus and visibility appears to be a goal from the Sheriff’s Office as we anticipate new innovative projects for this year.
- The Board recognizes not only the dedication of committee volunteers who patrol the area for deed violations but also sees the rising number of ACC Request Forms that correspond to the number of homeowners who are cooperatively working to comply with regulations by seeking prior approval for their home changes or projects.
- Street parking continues to be a major concern for neighbors accessing their homes and creates a hardship for emergency personnel vehicles.
- An initial bid offer was unanimously approved by the Board to be submitted toward the purchase of commercial office space. As such, a tentative Open House date will be postponed pending any new developments.
- Bandit Signs continue to be picked up from esplanades and other right of ways by a few dedicated members. The purpose is to collect and deliver to Harris County to be logged in and tagged for legal action. It IS against the law to post such signs and we are all within our legal rights to remove the “unsightly litter” from any public right of way.
- National Night Out ideas were brought forward for discussion. Details will be worked out in the near future.

### 2011 COMMITTEE CALENDAR:

**D/R Committee** – first Thursday, monthly @ 6:30 pm  
**Beautification Committee** – Thursday, May 19th @ 6:30 pm  
**Block Captain Committee** – Thursday, July 28th @ 6:30 pm

## DID YOU KNOW?

### *Kudos to Officers; keep the pressure on!*

Harris County continues a focused cleanup of this area. Deputies have been involved in multiple community sweep projects thus far this year.

\***“Proactive Officers’ Saturation”** – two separate nights back in mid February a large number of deputies converged to make arrests; including several drug arrests, cleared warrants, and returned a stolen vehicle

\***“DWI Sweep”** – a hardball DWI sweep occurred during the weekend of April 15-17. Accurate numbers are not available at this time, but an estimated count is seven DWIs, twenty warrants cleared, and several more drug arrests. [This is the **THIRD** sweep project thus far in 2011...but who’s counting?]



**WHOOOPS! (THERE IT IS...)**

As to be expected, but certainly was no surprise to hear that on or around April 17<sup>th</sup>, the south entrance esplanade area on Normandy had been damaged ... again. This is the same area that lost an entrance area sign many years ago when an automobile plowed through and destroyed the concrete marquee sign. A crew was called out to salvage the new plants and redress the area. A nearby neighbor managed to get a license plate number and vehicle description. If the driver has insurance coverage, we will initiate a claim to request reimbursement repairs. Although the landscaped area is a small price to pay and no one was hurt; we're ever so grateful that a replacement sign had not been installed yet. In light of the recurring problem in that area and the concerns of subsequent incidences, further discussions will prevail.

There has been mention in years past about cost factors of owning vs. leasing office space for the last oh, thirty years now, and this Board has brought up the same concern over the past year. It has been disclosed in the past few months that the Board voted unanimously to consider purchasing a local commercial property if it were both available and feasible. Last month it was reported that an initial bid was presented for consideration and an inspection would be scheduled before moving forward. If the bid is accepted, the building will require some renovations to alter the dental office setup into a more open and viable office space and larger board room before we can physically relocate. Therein, an Open House will be postponed until a later date.

I know I've said it numerous times; "the key is perseverance", and I truly believe that dedicated individuals on this board can and have really made a difference. We're only a small number with a lot of heart and a lot more work to do and goals to accomplish; and I thank them each one and all. Just as I appreciate and respect the residents that I have come in contact with. I believe wholeheartedly in the people of this community and working together for a common goal to move forward and not backward is all I ask. Most residents support our efforts...and that's what keeps us going; and I thank you all!

**CRIME REPORTS**  
**Always call Police IMMEDIATELY to report active criminal activity for an officer to be dispatched and always file a police report.**  
April reports included a catalytic converter stolen off of a vehicle. [Now THAT'S bold, no doubt about it.] Theft of outdoor property reports included an outside décor yard bench from the Old Spring area and a hose reel and hose from a side yard on Freeport. Last but definitely not least is a report that will likely become even more prevalent in the upcoming summer months. That being said, our security patrol officer has also been made aware of the multiple reports of loud music disturbances regularly occurring in the Oryan Court area after 10 pm.  
Make personal awareness your safety motto. Be aware of your surroundings anywhere; in a parking lot or even in your yard.

**ARE YOU A NEW HOMEOWNER OR RESIDENT?**

Welcome to Woodforest. In case you haven't been informed, whether you are an owner or a renter, **YOU LIVE IN A DEED RESTRICTED COMMUNITY.** As such, your residency here requires you to adhere to rules and regulations that govern this neighborhood. Denial or a direct refusal to comply with said longstanding restrictions in this community are simply inexcusable.

***As long as your home and yard are maintained and manicured, you abide by the rules in place and respond with respectful demeanor, you are generally, in good standing. Eliminate indifferent attitudes, violence, vandalism and gang activity by getting to know your neighbors, take pride in how you conduct yourself and respect others' property and their rights. While both the renter and the homeowner are notified of problems concerning their property, homeowners who rent their homes must require renters to adhere to the deed restrictions or risk legal action if not corrected. Hopefully, this will encourage all homeowners to require unruly renters to be respectful or face possible eviction.***

Amended Rules and Regulations are available at the office or view on the website at [www.woodforestcivicasociation.com](http://www.woodforestcivicasociation.com). Please make it a point to go by the Office to become better informed of the various aspects of living within a deed restricted community. Involvement is a key element to invest in neighborhood pride, growth and local success.

We're on the Web!  
woodforestcivicasociation.com

**Office Hours:**  
Mon–Fri 9:00AM–6:00PM

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**Regular Monthly Board Meetings**  
WCA Office on the second  
Tuesdays at 6:30PM

**WCOP ~ Citizens on Patrol Meetings:**  
**THIRD Tuesdays/monthly**  
**WCA Office @ 7:00 pm**  
**Next meeting ~ Tuesday, May 17, 2011**

## **Woodforest Citizens on Patrol Needs You!**

*By Jessica Sanchez, WCOP*

Imagine the feeling of coming home to your house after a long day of work and seeing broken glass or an open door. It's a scary feeling, one that some of you may have experienced in the past. But while crime seems to be an inevitable part of our society, we do NOT have to be victims. Steps can be taken to minimize, even eliminate crime in Woodforest!

The Woodforest Citizens on Patrol (WCOP) was started by a group of neighbors who were fed up of seeing their neighborhood taken away from them by crime. These active citizens took initiative and started WCOP, a volunteer organization that gives their time to patrol the neighborhood. All that's asked is a minimum of 6 hours per month – is your safety and security worth that?

Neighborhood watch is a group effort; it cannot fall on the shoulders of a few individuals. We must all step up to take the torch of WCOP and be the eyes and ears of Woodforest. Whether you prefer daytime strolls or nighttime patrol, you can help your neighbors by being proactive. Understand that we are not vigilantes and do not try to enforce the law; we simply provide extra observation and use our contacts through paid extra patrol and the Sheriff's Office to report what we see.

Your home being broken into shouldn't be the first step in protecting your home and neighborhood. Take steps to prevent crime before it occurs. Trim your trees and bushes so they don't cover your windows. Make sure your home is well lit and locks are in working order. And REPORT the crimes!! If the Sheriff's Office and Constables don't know the crimes are happening, they won't send the extra patrol our way.

I'd like to encourage you to take the time to come find out what the WCOP is all about. We meet on the THIRD Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Civic Association Office. Come out, find out what you can do, and remember--you don't HAVE to be a victim. With questions, please e-mail us at [woodforestcop@gmail.com](mailto:woodforestcop@gmail.com).