

# THE WOODCREEK UPDATE

*A Monthly Newsletter of Woodcreek, Texas*



## Note from the Mayor

Greetings, Woodcreekers!

Things are getting busy in Woodcreek as the weather turns to spring in the Hill Country. We are energized by the positive feedback we've received from this new monthly newsletter, and this month, we have even more to share with you. Keep scrolling to learn what's new in your community.

- We are **putting the finishing touches on our new Woodcreek city website**. Once it's live and you're enrolled, you can pay bills, apply for permits, report issues, and receive custom alerts.
- Did you know **Woodcreek elected officials and city staff meet with their counterparts** from Wimberley monthly to discuss issues and challenges in our Valley? And just recently, Woodcreek participated in the first-ever Hill Country Mayor's group, which assembled nearly 20 mayors from the region. These meetings allow us to "talk shop," keep informed, and share lessons.
- You've probably noticed the results of our **safety enhancement program**, with road crews having installed speed cushions and signage. We will continue to monitor the results of these safety efforts, and of course, your feedback is always welcome.
- **Two fun annual events** are coming up. On March 29, Woodcreek will take part in the Emergency Preparedness Fair at the VFW Fairgrounds. Then, on April 4, we'll host our Arbor Day celebration at the Triangle. Stop by for fun, food, and friendship.
- We are **restarting Woodcreek's Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program**. This completely voluntary initiative is designed to help us become more familiar with our closest neighbors and lend a helping hand, if necessary. Look for more information next month, but if anyone is interested in learning more about becoming an N2N Ambassador, [email the city](#).
- The Council recently voted to establish **a new Community Relations Committee**. This important (and fun) team will help with communications and city events. If you're interested in learning more

about joining this committee, please fill out [this volunteer application form](#).

So much is happening! Read on for more important and interesting information about your neighbors and neighborhood. And if you see a councilperson, committee member, or city staffer, please take a minute to thank them for making our community work. It's a great time to live in Woodcreek.

-Jeff Rasco, Mayor

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## Meet Russell Scott, Woodcreek City Council



*Russell Scott is Woodcreek's newest Council member, elected in November 2024. We'll continue featuring Council and Mayor profiles every month in this newsletter.*

### **How long have you lived in Woodcreek, and what do you enjoy about living here?**

I moved to Woodcreek a little over four years ago. My wife and I targeted this area because we have friends living there, and we have been visiting since the late 1980s. We have always loved the people and the beauty of the Wimberley Valley.

### **What is your profession?**

I have owned and operated a general contracting service for the last few years. Before that, I was a business operations director for 20 years, where I identified ways to reduce costs through efficiency improvements across large organizations globally.

### **Why did you run for City Council?**

I like to be involved and help. Before being on Council, I served on the Parks & Rec board and the Planning & Zoning committee. Being part of the Council allows me to use my experience to help our

neighbors get what they want from their city. My passion is finding ways to accomplish the things we want in the most cost-effective way possible.

**What have you learned in your time serving on City Council?**

Our residents are passionate about their city and take pride in Woodcreek, both its past and its future. I have also learned that we need to make it easier for our citizens to share their hopes, interests, and concerns and be extremely transparent about how we respond to those wishes.

**What are some of Woodcreek's biggest opportunities and challenges in the coming months and years?**

To me, communication is paramount. We are launching a new website and monthly newsletter that will go a long way to help keep people informed. Getting more residents to go to our website and subscribe to email/text alerts/updates makes that communication even easier. Of course, water is an issue that is never solved, but it constantly provides us with challenges to come up with long-term sustainable solutions for our future. Oak Wilt is another hot topic for many residents and me. I hope we encourage our Texas Legislature to find funds to help us share the cost of Oak Wilt mitigation and prevention.

**What is something interesting that you want residents to know about you?**

I ran for council on the platform of 'Let's Work Together,' and I mean it. I have political views, and so do most adults, but our city is just way too small to become divisive and not listen to everyone's views. By working together, we accomplish much more with much less effort, so I try to be the one everyone knows they can talk to and be heard without judgment and to take action as needed.

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**The Root Report: What's Happening with Our Trees**

In Woodcreek, we love our trees—it's our namesake, after all!

Join your neighbors on Friday, April 4, at the Triangle for Woodcreek's own Arbor Day celebration from 5 pm to 7 pm. We'll have food, drink, and a drawing/giveaway for free seedlings.

Trees are some of Woodcreek's most treasured natural assets, and we're taking great care to ensure they can be enjoyed for generations.

To that end, Woodcreek has contracted We Love Trees, a local company, to serve as the City Arborist. You may have seen them caring for our trees located along public roadways, right-of-ways, and parks.

To guide their efforts, the Woodcreek Tree Board conducted a comprehensive Tree Survey, documenting tree species, locations, and overall health conditions. Using this data, the arborists prioritized the removal of dead or hazardous trees—many of which had suffered from oak wilt, ice storms, and drought. The removed trees were repurposed into mulch, which was distributed throughout city parks. No red oak trees were mulched.



At this time, arborists found no active spread of oak wilt in public areas. Moving forward, experts will conduct monthly assessments to monitor for any new outbreaks. Crews will continue to fertilize and maintain public space trees as necessary. As a reminder, trimming any oak tree within Woodcreek is prohibited from February 1 through June 30.

If residents are concerned about a potential oak wilt outbreak on their property, they can request an inspection from the City Arborist by contacting City Hall. Limited funds are available to residents for oak wilt containment.

Residents can stay updated on tree care initiatives by visiting the City of Woodcreek's web page on tree care and for more information on any ongoing projects. General information about Texas Oak Wilt is also available online.

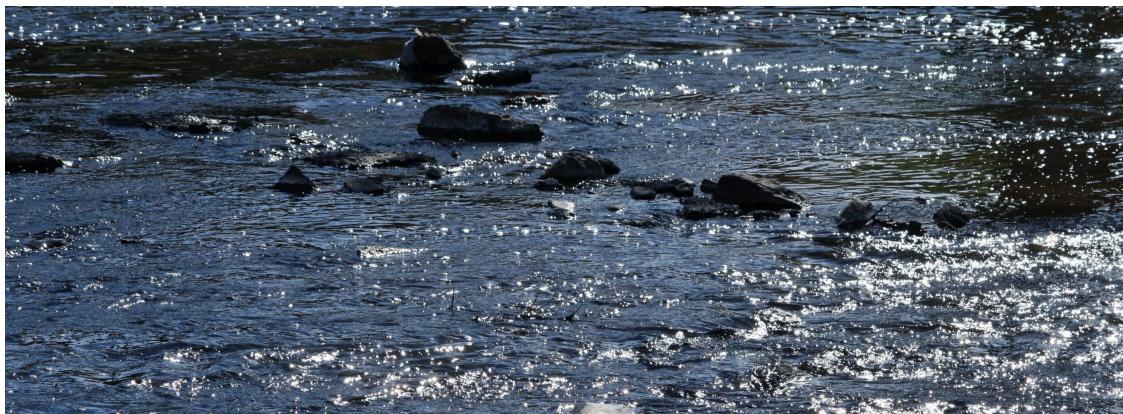
In related news, the Woodcreek City Council voted recently to merge the Tree Board and the Parks and Recreation Board into a single advisory body to streamline city governance, improve

efficiency, and better manage local parks and green spaces.

Once again, don't forget to join us on April 4 at the Triangle to celebrate our leafy residents, and let's keep Woodcreek shady!

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## Water Matters in Woodcreek



Great news for Woodcreek residents — Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is now up and running in our community and across the Wimberley Valley. This new technology from Aqua gives you more control over your water use, helping you stay informed and take steps to conserve. With AMI, you can:

- View your hourly water usage data at any time.
- Set up notifications to alert you of high water use or continuous usage — which could signal a potential leak that costs you money.
- Receive automatic conservation email notifications to let you know if your water use is out of line with recommendations set by the Hays Conservation District.

If you haven't already, [log in to your Aqua e-Portal account](#) to explore all these features and enroll in additional usage alerts.

This is an exciting step forward in protecting our water resources in Woodcreek. We look forward to working together to ensure a sustainable water future for our entire community.

[Read more about Advanced Metering Infrastructure here.](#)

On a related note, some might have noticed our water catchment tanks installed in public areas around town. These tanks store rainwater runoff, which is critical for maintaining our drought-tolerant landscaping. By using this collected water, we can reduce our dependency on groundwater.

By all of us doing our part, we can be water-wise and limit our use of this precious resource.

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