

THE WOODCREEK UPDATE

A Monthly Newsletter of Woodcreek, Texas



Note from the Mayor

Greetings, Woodcreekers!

We've been fortunate to have had a few "April Showers" this past month. Coincidentally, you'll notice this month's newsletter is focused on water—whether it's mitigating rain runoff, a new public restroom, or a freshly installed water fountain for residents and their four-legged walking companions. Read on to find out more.

We have lots of other news nuggets to share with you this month, including:

- Woodcreek is going digital! We are scanning city documents (plat maps, charters, contracts, minutes, etc.) that have been accumulating in paper form for years. This process will eventually reduce our storage needs and make it easier for residents to access important files.
- We've hired a new city photographer, [Charles Quinn](#), who is available as needed to document events, facilities, and faces within Woodcreek. We have great stories to tell, and Charles will help us showcase them.
- We raised \$315 for [Logan's Dugout](#) at the recent Emergency Preparedness Fair. Click on the link if you'd like to contribute to this worthwhile cause.
- If you're looking for ways to volunteer throughout the Wimberley Valley, then check out the [Wimberley Volunteer NOW](#), a collaboration of area nonprofits. It's a great way to get involved in the nearly 200 volunteer groups that make this Valley a great place to live, work, and visit.

- Tune in to [KWHV 94.3](#) every Monday at 8:30am to listen to yours truly on the “Woodcreek Corner,” a 30-minute informational program about happenings in our community.
- A reminder that all official Woodcreek meetings and events are [posted on our website](#).

And speaking of events, despite some cool and rainy weather, our community garage sale and bulky item pickup were a success. And so was our 2nd annual Woodcreek Egg Hunt, which saw dozens of kids and kids at heart searching for candy-filled fun. Thanks to our Community Relations Committee and our hard-working Woodcreek staff for organizing the “eggstravaganza.”

May welcomes Mother’s Day, so we extend our heartfelt thanks to our moms and those who have played a maternal role in someone’s life. Memorial Day arrives later in the month, and we will forever remember those who have died in service to our country.

As always, if you enjoy this newsletter, please share it with a neighbor so they can subscribe and stay up-to-date on the great things happening in Woodcreek.

-Jeff Rasco, Mayor

Meet Debra Hines, Woodcreek City Council



Debra Hines is a Woodcreek City Council representative. We'll continue featuring Council and Mayor profiles monthly in this newsletter.

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

Hard question, since I have lived in Woodcreek numerous times in my life. I was brought home from the hospital to a house on Brookside in Brookmeadow (in Woodcreek) and recently moved back as an adult in 2020.

What is your profession?

I was a public school teacher, I have owned several businesses and a store front. I am a maker and recently have been working as a supervisor at Dos Olivos, a restaurant in Wimberley on "the Square."

Why did you run for City Council?

I wanted to be more involved in the Community and have representation for young adults with families in our local government. I am the youngest person to ever run and then win a seat on the Woodcreek Council.

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

So much it cannot possibly be summarized outside of a full dissertation style presentation and 100+ page cited document. However, I will try to be brief. I learned what a representative democracy truly means in practice. Beyond that.... I have learned incredible amounts about my neighbors, who they are, and what they value. I have learned much about law, civil engineering, ADA compliance, zoning, road maintenance and installation, aquifers and riparian buffers, fire prevention, and so many other aspects of the running of a municipality. I found new interests and passions. Lastly, I have learned a great deal about myself. It has been a real impactful couple of years for me.

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

Opportunities: GRANT MONEY! We are getting a new bathroom for our playground and we are in process for assistance for our Comprehensive Plan update and a possible code update. We are working on looking at ways to improve traffic safety and pedestrian mobility.

Challenges: Facing that this drought is becoming the new way of life and that residents will likely need to make significant changes in our expectations and way of life should we not see relief soon. Creating buy in on that front and incentivizing water conservation.

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

I don't like ice cream all that much. People seem to have big reactions when they learn that about me. I love to read and enjoy making things..... everything from pies to art to a mess when I cook.

Don't Let Your Rain Be Your Neighbor's Pain: *Some Smart Drainage Tips*



It's no secret that there are a lot of hills in Woodcreek -- after all, we're in the Hill Country! But that beautiful rolling topography can cause drainage issues, especially when we're fortunate enough to receive rain, as we have recently.

Currently, a city-wide stormwater improvement program is cost-prohibitive, with an estimated price tag in the millions of dollars. Even so, good drainage is crucial in protecting your home and property from water damage. But it's equally important to ensure your solutions don't create problems for your neighbors. Poorly managed runoff can lead to erosion, standing water, or even flooding in adjacent yards.

Here are a few simple, neighbor-friendly ways to address drainage issues around your home:

- **Start with your roof.** Clogged gutters and downspouts can overflow, directing water to unintended areas. Make sure gutters are clean and securely attached, and that downspouts direct water at least five feet away from your foundation. Consider a rain barrel, too. Not only will it mitigate runoff, but you'll have free, eco-friendly water to sustain your plantings.
- **Consider rain gardens.** Direct the flow of water to a shallow, permeable area planted with native flora that absorbs and filters stormwater. They're attractive, low-maintenance, and help slow down water while keeping it on your property. When considering a patio remodel, opt for permeable materials like gravel, pavers, or permeable concrete. These surfaces allow water to soak into the ground instead of running off.
- **Grade your property properly.** Ensure your yard is gently sloped to direct water away from your home, but not toward your neighbor's. Consider gentle berms and swales that slow and sink large amounts of water into the ground or properly divert them to designated

drainage areas. You can [learn more about reducing erosion and mitigating water runoff in this guide](#), prepared by the Hill Country Alliance.

The City of Woodcreek is collaborating with Hays County and the Meadows Center to address our drainage issues, including assessments and public education forums. Look for more information in the weeks and months ahead.

Open communication with neighbors can lead to joint solutions that benefit everyone, especially if water flows between yards. Proper planning and a few thoughtful improvements can solve drainage issues without shifting the burden to someone else. Keeping water under control is a win for your home, your neighbors, and the environment.

Creekside Park Draws a Royal Flush



More great news for our Woodcreek green spaces: Creekside Park is getting a single-stall, ADA-compliant, open-air public restroom with running water and electricity!

A \$25,000 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority's Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP) partially funded the project. CDPP grants improve the quality or quantity of services essential for the development of viable communities and economic growth. The grants are awarded twice a year to local municipalities and other tax-exempt nonprofit organizations.

Additionally, a rainwater catchment system with an 800-gallon water tank is being installed in Creekside Park to help irrigate the landscape. The park also features a children's playground, picnic tables, and benches -- making it perfect for springtime family outings.

Paws and Refresh: Triangle Park Gets

A Fountain Fit for All



It won't be long before our mild spring gives way to the dog days of summer. Despite the heat, many residents still enjoy spending time outdoors, exercising, walking their dogs, or playing in our green spaces. Thanks to Aqua Texas, residents and their canine companions will have a place to hydrate! Our water provider recently installed a water fountain with a dog waterer at Triangle Park. It's now operational, just in time for the busy season.

In recent months, the park has become a focal point for gatherings in Woodcreek. It features a rainwater catchment system, new benches, and a shady gazebo that was the site of last month's Arbor Day celebration. Scenes from the event are pictured above, along with the new fountain donated by Aqua.

If you haven't seen it yet, stop by and take a sip!



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