

# THE WOODCREEK UPDATE

## *A Monthly Newsletter of Woodcreek, Texas*



### Note from the Mayor

Greetings, Woodcreekers!

Autumn (Texas style, anyway) is upon us! Summer-like temps are slowly but surely giving way to more tolerable days, allowing us to enjoy the beautiful outdoor surroundings of our town.

Thanks to all who came out for Luau Day, and thanks to Camp Young Judaea for hosting the end-of-summer bash. Please take a look at our photo library of the fun-filled afternoon.

More fun is planned in October—be sure to mark your calendars for our annual SpookTacular on October 30th. You can read more about the festivities later in this newsletter.

Also in our newsletter are some helpful hints on do's and don'ts when it comes to our deer of Woodcreek... fall is an active time for them. And last but certainly not least, read on to meet Sean Rawlings, Woodcreek's Code Administrator. We're thankful for his contributions in making Woodcreek a safe and beautiful place.

A few other items you need to know:

- A reminder from Aqua Texas that we're under Stage 4 Drought Restrictions. That means all outdoor water use is strictly prohibited, and residents are encouraged to conserve water inside their homes. This month's "Tree Talk" article outlines things you can do to keep new and existing flora healthy during these prolonged dry periods.
- On a related note, our Tree and Parks Board is planning the annual Tree Giveaway for November 9 at City Hall. The event is also a great opportunity to visit Woodcreek's community garden nearby. Check your inbox for registration details.
- You might have heard that the City Council is also considering hosting a regular social event at the Triangle featuring local music and food trucks. Stay tuned for more information.
- The City has approved funding for four additional permanent speed radar signs on Champions Circle, as well as one set of speed cushions and signage along Augusta Drive, and another set on Brookhollow Drive near the playground. This is in response to the overwhelmingly positive feedback we've received from our recently installed traffic infrastructure.

- The City has approved funding for a power generator for City Hall. This location has been designated as an emergency operations center in the event of flooding, wildfires, or other disasters that may affect our community. We are working with Hays County and our Wimberley neighbors to be a part of this emergency network.
- Our new fiscal year 2025-26 budget went into effect on October 1 and reflects a no-new-revenue property tax rate.
- A reminder that Monday, October 6, is the last day to register to vote or update your registration. Election Day (including Woodcreek Mayor and two At-Large City Council positions) is November 4. The early in-person voting period begins on October 20 and ends on October 31. You can [find complete election information on our website](#).
- With fall's arrival, there's no excuse not to join us for Chair Yoga, held every Monday at 9am. Come stretch with your neighbors -- all levels of experience are welcome!

Beginning this month, our newsletter is available as a printed handout. If you have any neighbors who would like one, please stop by City Hall.

Have a great October!

Jeff Rasco  
Mayor

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## Meet Sean Rawlings: The Friendly Face Behind Woodcreek's Code Compliance



*Sean Rawlings is Woodcreek's dedicated and down-to-earth Code Administrator. In this Q&A, Sean shares how his work helps keep our community safe, beautiful, and neighborly.*

### Q: Sean, what exactly do you do for the City of Woodcreek?

I help keep Woodcreek looking its best. That includes everything from making sure public road signs are unobstructed, to tackling overgrown grass and addressing trailers in driveways. My role in code administration is to help the city stay safe, orderly, and beautiful—without being heavy-handed.

### Q: How did you get into code compliance work?

I started off helping with basic upkeep and gradually got involved in reporting things like overgrown lawns or parked trailers. When the City needed someone friendly and approachable in this role, they tapped me. I'm not here to hassle people—I just want to help us all take care of the neighborhood together.

### Q: Why are city regulations important in a place like Woodcreek?

We don't have an HOA here, which makes our Code of Ordinances even more essential. Without some structure, we risk the neighborhood becoming cluttered with uncut grass, parked trailers, and neglected properties. These regulations help maintain property values, neighborhood safety, and the overall charm of Woodcreek.

### Q: What are the most common issues you come across?

Tall grass is a big one—anything over 6 inches is technically a violation. But we use judgment; after heavy rains, we're not rushing out with tape measures. Trailers parked visibly for too long are another issue. And sometimes, it's just general clutter in yards. We're only focused on the more serious, obvious cases.

**Q: What's the process when something does need attention?**

If I spot something or receive a report, I usually keep an eye on it for a week or so before taking action. Then I send a first friendly letter with a request to fix the situation within a week. If that doesn't work, I send a second one, which reminds the resident that a fine could be issued. A third letter is rarely needed—but when it is, we involve the City Council if the issue continues.

**Q: How can residents report an issue if they see something?**

We encourage individuals to visit our official website and submit a report online. It's much better than a phone call or email because it creates a proper record, helps us track cases more easily, and it's anonymous. Just quietly let us know, and we'll take it from there.

**Q: What if someone isn't able to fix the issue themselves?**

We're working on building partnerships with local groups to assist elderly or disabled residents with basic maintenance tasks, such as mowing and small repairs. We're not quite there yet, but we're actively working on a solution. Our goal is not just compliance, but community support.

**Q: What should residents know about you?**

I live here too, so I care just as much about the neighborhood looking good. I'm not the "neighborhood police." I talk to people with kindness and respect—and if you ever see me around, feel free to wave me down. I'm happy to help however I can.

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## SpookTacular Brings Ghosts, Giggles, Good Times!



Mark your calendars: the annual Woodcreek SpookTacular is haunting the 'hood on **Thursday, October 30, from 5 to 7pm**. The family-friendly event will be held at 1 Pro Lane, at the entrance of the Double J Ranch Golf Club.

Costumed revelers of all ages will be invited on stage (by age group) for judging and awards. The festival will include bounce house inflatables, games, treats, and food and beverages available for purchase at the golf course.

Please visit the City's website for more information. Expect an evening filled with seasonal excitement and plenty of opportunities to mingle with your friends and neighbors.

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## Tree Talk: Fall Planting During Water Restrictions



*Thanks to Shannon Suberbelle-Claussen, Woodcreek resident and Trees and Parks Board Secretary, for providing this “Tree Talk” feature on caring for Woodcreek’s flora. This month’s article focuses on fall planting.*

Fall is often regarded as the ideal time to plant trees and shrubs. Cooler weather eases transplant shock, while autumn rains feed new roots, preparing for spring growth. But what if your community is enduring an outdoor watering ban? Can you still plant responsibly? The answer is yes—with careful planning and water-wise strategies.

Autumn’s lower temperatures reduce evaporation and stress, making it easier for plants to establish without extra watering. Restrictions exist to safeguard drinking water, so gardeners must adapt by selecting resilient species and maximizing the use of natural rainfall.

Success begins at the nursery. Be sure to choose native plants that are adapted to local rainfall and soil conditions. Opt for drought-tolerant varieties labeled “xeric,” “drought-tolerant,” or “low-water.” Take advantage of dormancy. Deciduous plants (ones that shed their leaves every year) set in the ground after leaf drop require less water to establish.

Healthy soil is your best ally. Add compost or leaf mulch to increase water retention, and dig wide, shallow holes to help roots spread. Skip fertilizers, which raise water demand. Time your planting just after a soaking rain, and aim for early fall to give roots time to grow before winter.

Set the roots at the same depth as they are in their container and gently pack the soil to remove air pockets. Mulch generously—two to four inches deep—to keep soil cool and moist, but don’t pile mulch against stems. If the weather turns hot, provide temporary shade with cloth or old sheets. Soak roots indoors before planting if possible.

Even with watering bans, some creative sources remain to nourish your plantings. Consider capturing greywater from rinsing food or dishes, or use a bucket in the shower to capture water before it gets warm. Rain barrels under downspouts or tarps funneled into collection containers can be a relatively simple and effective way to capture water. Condensate from an air conditioning unit can also be used as a supplemental trickle irrigation source. Every drop counts, so use these sparingly and directly at plant bases.

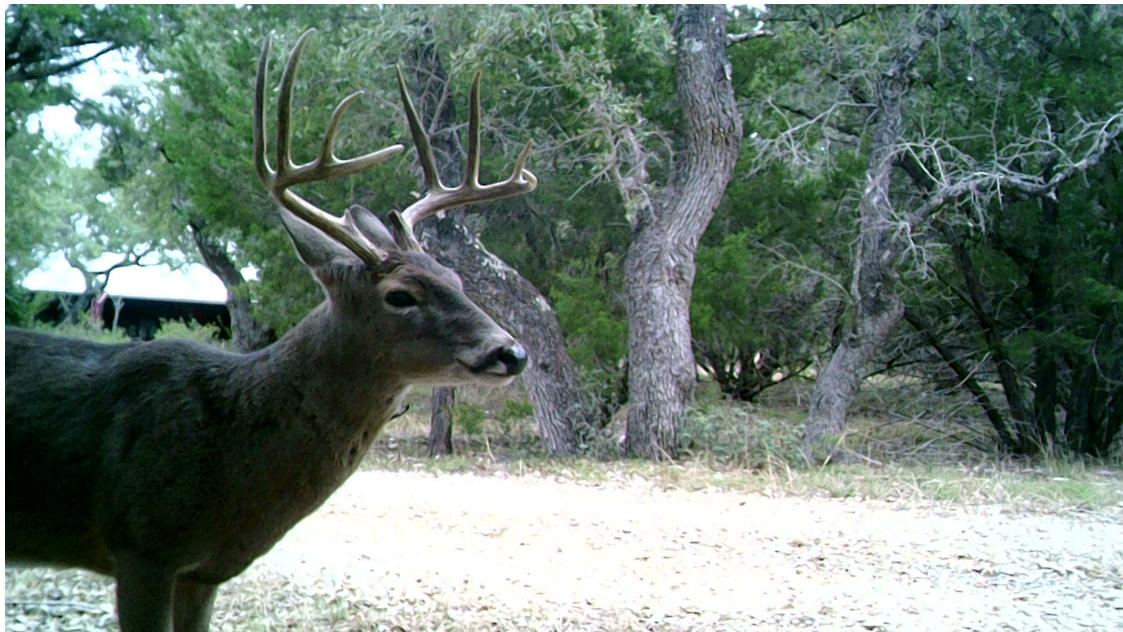
After planting, the work continues—but in a more observational way. Check soil moisture with your finger or a meter, keep weeds at bay, and refresh mulch as needed. Be patient, because plants that endure their first water-wise season will often thrive when rains return.

If rainfall is scarce, try fall seeding with native wildflowers and grasses that germinate naturally with seasonal moisture. Or spend the season building soil health with compost and cover crops. For guaranteed success, grow herbs or greens indoors in containers until outdoor watering restrictions are relaxed.

Though the hose stays coiled, fall still offers gardeners an opportunity. With the right plants, good timing, and a little creativity, Woodcreek yards can grow strong roots even during water restrictions. Plant with patience, steward your soil, and trust the promise of spring.

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## Don't Feed, Take Heed: Increased Deer Activity In Woodcreek



As autumn arrives in Woodcreek, we're naturally becoming more active outdoors, as hot temperatures finally begin to subside. For multiple reasons, whitetail deer are active, too. This time of year calls for special awareness, particularly as deer behavior changes with the seasons.

It is important to remind residents that feeding deer is strictly prohibited within the City of Woodcreek at all times. This includes placing corn, oats, fruits, vegetables, or other feed in yards, feeders, or on the ground. Exceptions apply to live vegetation, landscaping, and the regular feeding of domestic pets.

The ban is not simply a matter of local preference. Scientific studies and guidance from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department have shown that supplemental feeding does not improve deer health and can, in fact, harm them. Artificial feeding often leads to overpopulation, increased disease transmission, and greater dependence on humans for survival.

Deer are more active during the fall, thanks to the onset of the whitetail deer breeding season, known as the rut. Beginning in October, bucks become more active, distracted, and aggressive as they compete for mates. This heightened activity means deer will be more unpredictable and less cautious around humans and vehicles.

Motorists, in particular, need to exercise greater caution. Deer are most active at dawn and dusk, the very times many residents are commuting or running errands. Slow down when driving through town, especially in areas with limited visibility. If you encounter a dead deer on your property, you can submit a deer removal request to the city.

Residents are also encouraged to take precautions to safeguard their property during this season. Bucks in rut sometimes damage young trees and landscaping by rubbing their antlers on trunks. Protecting vulnerable plants with wraps or barriers can reduce damage while preserving the beauty of your yard.

Woodcreek's charm rests in its harmony with nature. Together, we can help preserve the balance that makes our city such a special place to live.

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