

THE WOODCREEK UPDATE

A Monthly Newsletter of Woodcreek, Texas



Note from the Mayor

Woodcreek Neighbors:

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are feeling ready to take on 2026. As always, Central Texas is keeping things interesting; one day calling for shorts, the next for sweaters, with temperatures bouncing between the 30s and the 80s and everything in between. Through it all, Woodcreek remains a place of steady warmth, and I'm excited to share what's ahead for our community in the new year.

Be sure to read on for profiles of Linda Swedberg, our newest City Council member, and Jeff Rasco, our outgoing Mayor. We're also recapping the highly successful inaugural holiday Jingle & Mingle event, and adding details to a springtime volunteer appreciation gathering.

Here's what else you need to know this month:

- Speaking of winter, if you haven't prepared your household for some of Mother Nature's more serious cold weather, ice, and snow, now's the time! The city recently published some tips and a checklist for winter weather preparedness. [Please take a few minutes to review these key preparedness steps](#) to stay safe during winter storms, freezing temperatures, heavy rainfall, or power and water outages.
- A reminder that trimming of all oak trees is prohibited from February 1st through June 30th. A free permit is required for all tree trimming and removals year-round. You can [apply for the permit here](#). There is a fine for trimming trees without the appropriate permit and an additional fine for trimming oak trees during the prohibited months.
- Join me in thanking Councilman Russell Scott for his service. Russell resigned in December due to professional obligations. He intends to stay involved in the community and has applied for a position on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Council will appoint someone to fill his seat later this month.
- The city has established a new homestead tax credit for residents who install a single-point source rainwater collection system to supply their pools. The initiative is designed to reduce demand on our municipal water system. Please contact City Hall for details. As a reminder, [Woodcreek is in a Stage 4 drought](#).

Thank you for your continued engagement, kindness, and commitment to our community. Woodcreek's strength comes from its residents, and it is a privilege to serve such a thoughtful and involved city. I wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year, and I look forward to working together in the year ahead.

Debra Hines
Mayor

Welcoming Linda Swedberg, Woodcreek City Council



Linda Swedberg was elected to the Woodcreek City Council on November 4th. We caught up with her to learn about her background and her priorities for Woodcreek in 2026.

Q: Tell us a bit about yourself - how long have you lived in Woodcreek, and what do you like most about it?

We've lived in Woodcreek for nine years, moving here from a very small ranch outside of Dripping Springs. When the suburbs spread over us, and we decided to board my horses and move to a small town, Woodcreek was the only consideration. I've loved Woodcreek for many years, primarily through my close friendship with a Woodcreek resident of over 25 years.

What's not to enjoy? The natural beauty of trees and green spaces, diverse styles and eras of well-kept homes, dark skies with nightscapes of stars I thought were only possible out in the country, a growing number of community events, and welcoming neighbors of all ages. In a nutshell, it's a great place to live.

Q: What is your profession?

I retired from a career in public administration. I worked at all levels of government, from county and city to federal positions. I served the last 20 years of my working life as the Contracts Operations manager for the Child Support Division of the Texas Attorney General's office (a mouthful, I know). I have a master's degree in Public Administration.

Q: Why did you decide to run for City Council?

I ran for City Council because I support and want to help build on what the prior Mayor and City Council have done to help move our small city forward while preserving what makes Woodcreek so special. I support an approach to government that leverages public resources through grants and matching funds to make improvements available to all, while keeping the tax rate stable.

I want to do my part to keep the momentum going through infrastructure maintenance and improvements, water conservation, sponsorship of community events that bring residents together and strengthen our sense of community, safety improvements, and partnerships with city, county, and regional governments to address issues that affect us all. I ran for City Council now because I believe in the ability of this City Council, Mayor, and Administration to get that job done.

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

My first City Council meeting will be in January. I have learned a lot from attending City Council meetings or watching them online, reading background materials and City Council minutes, and, most importantly, from talking with Woodcreek residents as I've met them in community events and forums, or as I've walked the neighborhood. I've learned how difficult communication between Council members and residents can be during Council meetings, considering the legal restrictions on how Council members communicate with the public during meetings.

I've been reminded of how important the community planning process is and how hard we need to work to get as much feedback from residents as possible. The priorities established in the community plan will serve as the primary guide for the Council's work. I've also been reminded of how important the success and quality of life in Woodcreek are to our residents.

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

Many opportunities will come from building on what the City has learned through its infrastructure, safety, and community projects. There is also a wealth of experience and practical knowledge among Woodcreek residents to draw on when volunteering their talents. There are funding opportunities outside of taxes to improve our infrastructure, create and maintain green spaces and parks, conserve water, improve roads and drainage, and address quality of life issues identified by our residents through community planning. We have the opportunity to partner with local and regional governments and businesses to share experiences and reduce the burden on one.

Each of these opportunities comes with its challenges. Increasing flooding, droughts, and other extreme weather events put pressure on emergency funding and people resources. Federal or state funding may not always be available for matching projects. Careful attention must be paid to maintaining a stable tax rate and emergency funds. We may not be able to do everything we want, so we must continually refer back to our budget, community action plan, and our commitment to protect and provide essential quality services to Woodcreek citizens. Acknowledging these challenges, I still have faith we can move forward and do good.

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

Maybe more boring than interesting: One of my passions is wildlife protection. I am a certified Habitat Steward with the National Wildlife Foundation. I garden for wildlife with passion, and will gladly corner you to list the 61 different plants I have put in for pollinators and migrators, tell you the long story of the loss of our live oaks to Satan Oak Wilt, and pontificate on the benefits of rainwater collection and green spaces. And don't even get me started on horses. You will regret it.

I look forward to getting to work on the City Council in January and will do my best for this community. Happy New Year!

**Merry, Bright, & Busy:
Jingle & Mingle Delivers!**



The Woodcreek Jingle & Mingle, held on Saturday, December 13th at Triangle Park, brought a holiday sparkle to the community, quickly becoming one of Woodcreek's better-attended events in its inaugural year. [View the entire photo gallery here.](#)

Neighbors of all ages gathered for festive fun, including classic favorites like Christmas carols, an inflatable bounce house, and photos with Santa. Creativity was everywhere, with stations for holiday cookie decorating and nutcracker ornament painting adding colorful flair to the afternoon.

Families also took advantage of Santa's Mailbox, dropping off wishes that received personalized replies before Christmas. Throughout the event, neighbors reconnected, shared laughter, and introduced new faces to Woodcreek's warm holiday spirit.

The combination of activities, treats, and community camaraderie made the Jingle & Mingle feel like a holiday tradition in the making. With its remarkable turnout and joyful atmosphere, this year's celebration set a high bar for future gatherings. A special thanks to the Community Relations Committee and the volunteers who helped make this evening magical!

Celebrating Leadership: Woodcreek Honors Mayor Jeff Rasco



As the year draws to a close, the City of Woodcreek is honoring a chapter of dedicated leadership with the conclusion of Mayor Jeff Rasco's second term. At the December 10 City Council meeting, Rasco was formally recognized *"In Honor and Recognition of Outstanding Leadership and Dedication for his Volunteer Service for the City of Woodcreek."*

Rasco, who moved to Woodcreek in 1997, has seen the community change significantly over the years. "The average age is skewing lower, and the number of kids is skewing higher," he noted, reflecting on Woodcreek's shift from a quiet retirement community to a vibrant neighborhood of families. That changing community shaped his priorities in office, particularly his emphasis on engagement, accessibility, and connection between longtime and newer residents.

Rasco first stepped into city governance when he won a seat on the City Council in 2006, serving until 2011 and finishing as Mayor Pro Tem. He returned to the private sector to focus on his business but remained active and was elected to the Council again in 2021. Motivated by a desire to apply his organizational and technology background to local needs, Rasco was elected Mayor in 2022, intent on fostering unity and forward-thinking leadership.

One of his proudest accomplishments was strengthening Woodcreek's culture of volunteerism. "We created standing committees and brought in 35 to 40 active volunteers," Rasco said, noting that formalizing those opportunities transformed casual goodwill into sustained civic participation. Volunteers became central to how the city planned, hosted, and governed.

Rasco also pointed to community events as a cornerstone of his tenure. "One of the things we wanted to do was have more community focus — to build community," he said. Under that philosophy, Woodcreek expanded its calendar of gatherings, from Arbor Day and the Tree Giveaway to Woodcreek Days at Camp Young Judaea and the city's popular seasonal celebrations.

Infrastructure and fiscal stewardship were also defining elements of Rasco's leadership. He helped guide the city through its first general obligation bond to fully resurface roads and consistently emphasized returning unspent funds to the treasury. "We've managed to keep taxes reasonable and not spend everything we budget," he said, calling fiscal restraint a responsibility to future residents.

Rasco also championed regional cooperation with neighboring entities, including the City of Wimberley and Hays County, on water resources and environmental stewardship.

As his term ends, Rasco looks forward to spending more time with family, pursuing long-delayed hobbies, and continuing to volunteer in ways that benefit the community. His legacy to Woodcreek is not a single project or policy, but a steady strengthening of the civic fabric that holds our community together. Thank you, Mayor Rasco!

Volunteers Make Woodcreek!



The City of Woodcreek will host a volunteer appreciation & recognition event on Thursday, February 5th from 6-8pm to celebrate the many residents who help make our community thrive. The gathering will feature a shared meal and celebration offering a chance to relax, connect, and say thank you to those who give their time and talents to the city. Location and more details coming soon - be sure to follow the City of Woodcreek Facebook page and on Nextdoor to stay up to date!

If you have ever volunteered for Woodcreek — whether at a city event, on a committee, or helping with a work project — the city would love to recognize you. Please take a moment to [fill out this short form](#) to be included in the celebration.

Volunteering is one of the best ways to stay engaged, meet neighbors, and have a voice in shaping Woodcreek's future. The city is currently accepting volunteers for openings on the Planning & Zoning Commission, Trees and Parks Board, and Community Relations Committee. Woodcreek is also seeking volunteers willing to assist with city projects and events on an as-needed basis, making it easy to participate even with a busy schedule. [Fill out this form if you'd like to learn more about the opportunities available](#) -- no obligation! You can also stop by City Hall to discuss these positions and time requirements.

Whether you enjoy planning, planting, organizing, or welcoming neighbors, there is a place for you to get involved -- and you'll have fun doing it. Together, Woodcreek's volunteers help build not just a city, but a stronger and more connected community.

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