



WINTER 2023

LAKE OLYMPIA

Beautiful homes and exceptional living - welcome home.

NEWSLETTER ADDENDUM



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 LAKE OLYMPIA
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Visit our website at

www.lakeolympia.org

for the latest announcements.

locaboard2020@lakeolympia.org

You are always welcome to contact the board with any questions, concerns or grievances. You will receive a timely reply.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Assistant Manager: Candy Curtis

Crest Management Company

17171 Park Row, Suite 310

Houston, Texas 770849-5

(281) 579-0761 Customer Service

(281) 835-5992 Direct

Clubhouse Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(281) 835-5992



Painted Bunting, photo taken by Ginger Jones in her backyard at Lakeshore Forest



WinterEvents Calendar

December

- Dec. 1 – Lake Olympia Garden and Social Club visit to Craftex
- Dec. 12 - MUD#49 Meeting at clubhouse at 12:00pm <http://www.fbcmud49.org>
- Dec. 20 – MUD#1 Meeting at clubhouse at 2:30pm <http://www.ppmud1.org>
- Dec. 20 – MUD#2 Meeting at clubhouse at 4:00pm <http://www.ppmud2.org>
- There is no monthly LOCA Board meeting in December

January

- Jan. 5 - Lake Olympia Garden and Social Club field trip to view the Botanic Garden's light show, "Radiant Nature"
- Jan. 9 - Mud#49 Meeting at clubhouse at 12:00pm <http://www.fbcmud49.org>
- Jan. 9 - LOCA Annual Meeting and LOCA board elections at 6:30 pm at the clubhouse
- Jan. 18 - MUD#1 Meeting at clubhouse at 2:30pm <http://www.ppmud1.org>
- Jan. 18 - MUD#2 Meeting at clubhouse at 4:00pm <http://www.ppmud2.org>
- Jan. 19 - Lake Olympia Garden and Social Club meeting at clubhouse at 9:00 am
- Jan. 25 - LOCA Board Meeting at clubhouse at 6:30pm

February

- Feb. 2 - Lake Olympia Garden and Social Club field trip to the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary
- Feb. 13 - Mud#49 Meeting at clubhouse at 12:00pm <http://www.fbcmud49.org>
- Feb. 21 – MUD#1 Meeting at clubhouse at 2:30pm <http://www.ppmud1.org>
- Feb. 21 – MUD#2 Meeting at clubhouse at 4:00pm <http://www.ppmud2.org>
- Feb. 16 - Lake Olympia Garden and Social Club meeting at clubhouse at 9:00am
- Feb. 22 - LOCA Board Meeting at clubhouse at 6:30



Please **REGISTER** at www.crest-management.com to receive electronic communications, access your account and electronic forms, and read the newsletter: Click on **Homeowner Login**, enter a preferred email address and then input the **personalized Temporary Password** provided in the introduction letter you received from Crest Management. You may then personalize your password and access your account. If you need assistance registering call 281-835-5992 M-F from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

OUR LAKE OLYMPIA WILDLIFE

by Marie Moore, *Editor*

We are incredibly lucky to live in Lake Olympia where we can see deer like the magnificent buck searching for a doe in the front cover. Beth Szescila took the photo behind her house in Flamingo Island. We need to preserve our lakes, shoreline, wetlands, and wooded areas where our wildlife lives, nests, or stops by for a visit. Our wildlife is ours to keep so long as we protect their habitat. Most wildlife is protected, and some of our wildlife can be a bit of a nuisance at times, but they are part of nature, and we need to tolerate and find ways to mitigate their faults.



This beautiful Barred Owl liked to perch in one of our tallest trees, unfortunately cut down for no reason.

It is extremely important to preserve our trees and continue attracting birds and wildlife. Our deed restrictions have a tree preservation clause and before removing any tree, even in backyards, it is necessary to first get approval from the Architectural Control Committee.

The severe draught we suffered this summer has been hard on trees, and older established trees were especially stressed. Try to plant one or more trees to help our environment.

FACTS ABOUT ARMADILLOS

Armadillo activity has increased in our yards, especially because of the drought. Our moist, irrigated yards provide the grubs and insects they feed on and are therefore a place to forage. The Oyster Creek area has been especially hard hit because of the loss of habitat by new development nearby. However, the drought seems to be the number one culprit, as dry, hard soil will not provide the food they seek.

- Although beneficial because they eat insects and other invertebrates, they can become a nuisance by digging lawns, vegetable gardens and flower beds in search of food. They are wild animals and can communicate diseases like leprosy and rabies if handled or eaten. So, do not touch or get near them. They are not aggressive. They were known as the poor man's pork during the Depression. They live 7 – 20 years and come together only to mate. Four young are born in a burrow in March, always of the same sex, and are identical

quadruplets developed from the same egg. They are the only mammals in which multiple young form from a single egg with any regularity. The nine banded is the only species found in the United States. They are little leapers and can jump 3 to 4 feet in the air which may help scare off predators. They like to swim and can hold their breath and walk four-six minutes underwater in streams and ponds. They are nearly deaf and blind and rely on their sense of smell. Cold is their enemy. They make a variety of low grunting sounds and can reach a speed of 30 mph. They mostly sleep during the day and feed at night.

- No person may sell or possess for the purpose of sale in this state a living armadillo. There is no closed hunting season for a non-game animal and a valid hunting license is required. Because they are known to contract and carry leprosy it is illegal to sell them live in Texas. Although you can trap them, removing or relocating them is illegal. The only way to legally do so is by receiving the approval of the local Texas Park and Wildlife representative.

How to get rid of armadillos: Restrict their food supply by trimming bushes, shrubs, and tall grass, remove the insect population by using eco-friendly beneficial nematode. Insecticides may have negative effects on the environment and are not a long-term solution. Installing in-ground fencing, usually made of wire, acts as a physical barrier, but it needs to be deep because they dig. Installing electric fencing is effective, but it requires maintenance and needs power. Remove their hiding places (burrows in areas with protective vegetation). You can live trap them with bait but it can be illegal. They hate the smell of vinegar, ammonia, and mothballs, but mothballs and ammonia are not good for the environment. Watering your yard in the early morning acts as a deterrent, as the soil will be drier in the evening.

(www.tpwd.texas.gov; pestgnome.com; thecritterteam.com).



In conclusion, it seems like Henry and Henrietta will continue to be around since they cannot be hunted without a special license, they can be trapped but not relocated, they cannot be sold, they should not be touched, and it is not easy to keep them out of yards!

"Henry" Clay sculpture by Amelie Cherry

Don't Feed the Raccoons!

by Gary Leist, *Lake Committee Chair*

I have recently heard comments about multiple residents feeding raccoons. I would like to warn residents that this is a dangerous thing to do. Even though raccoons seem cute and tame easily, they can be very aggressive. They also can contract rabies, distemper and can transmit bacteria and round worms. I was told that a resident was scratched by a raccoon when it reached out to grab her as it tried to get her attention for food. A couple weeks back, I had one approach me in my back yard and had to poke it 2 or 3 times with a stake to get it to back off.

Raccoons can also be destructive. Two years ago, I found pieces of roofing shingles by my house. I went on the roof and found three different areas where they pulled pieces of shingles off trying to get into the attic. I also was told that one resident recently had raccoons in their attic. Once this happens, you will be spending quite a bit to have pest control remove them.

Raccoons normally live near the water which provides a food source for them. The highest concentration of raccoons in Lake Olympia are in Lakeshore Forest, Flamingo Island, and Jade Island. My neighbor in Lakeshore Forest recently saw five raccoons on her back patio when she turned on her outside night light. This was most likely a mother and her litter from this year. Typical litter sizes for raccoons are 3 or 4. This raccoon population can multiply pretty fast, so please don't feed them!



Photo taken by Ginger Jones

COMMON CONCERNS & WHO ENFORCES THE RULES AND/OR REGULATIONS FOR CODE VIOLATIONS

Do you know where to report code violation problems? Here is a comprehensive list of who to call. The City of Missouri City's Code Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcing the ordinances.

CITY ENFORCEMENT: Call: 281 403 8560 or download the app: MCTX311.

- **High Grass and Weeds** – Overgrown weeds and grass are unsightly, constitute a safety hazard and harbor rodents and other pests. It is illegal to allow grass or weeds to grow beyond 9 inches in height or more than 6 inches across or upon any flatwork.
- **Junked Vehicles:** Any wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, inoperable vehicle may not be parked on private property. Inoperable includes vehicles with expired safety inspection stickers and/or current vehicle registration tags.
- **Tree Branches:** Trees overhanging the roadway must have a minimum clearance of 13 ½ feet above the street. Trees overhanging the sidewalk must have a minimum clearance of 8 feet from the sidewalk. Contact the City for trimming branches in the street.
- **Swimming Pools:** Swimming pools shall be maintained in a clean & sanitary condition, in good repair, and surrounded by fence.
- **Trash Screening:** Any garbage receptacle, container, bag, or device used for the collection or storage must be screened from view.
- **Trash Placement:** Prohibits trash and trash containers from being placed at the curb for collection prior to 6 PM the evening before scheduled collection and after midnight of the scheduled collection day.
- **Gutters:** All gutters and downspouts must be maintained in good working order, free from holes and securely fastened to the building.
- **Mildew:** All surfaces must be maintained in a clean, sanitary condition.
- **Exterior Walls:** All exterior walls shall be free from holes, breaks, and loose or rotting materials, and maintained weatherproof and properly surface coated where required to prevent deterioration.
- **Fencing:** All accessory structures, including detached garages, fences and walls shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair.
- **Parking Vehicles on Grass:** Parking space must be hard surfaced to City specifications. Parking vehicles in areas that are not designated for parking is prohibited.
- **Permits:** Permits are required to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing system.

Commonly enforced City ordinance violations in subdivisions

POLICE ENFORCEMENT: Call the Missouri City non-emergency number- 281 403 8700.

- Use of fireworks
- Discharge Firearms or Air Rifle Within the City Limits
- Vehicle Parked in Street: More than 48 hours.
- Trailer Parked in Street: More than 48 hours.
- Vehicle Parked in Street: Wheels more than 18 inches from curb.
- Junked Vehicle Parked in Public Right of Way.

HOA 's are responsible for enforcing any rules and regulations provided for in the deed restrictions respective subdivision.

HOA ENFORCEMENT: Call the LOCA Management Company: Direct number- 281 835 5992.

- Weeds in flowerbeds
- Grass/Lawn under 9" tall
- Christmas lights on structures
- Loud/Bright paint color in home
- Roof color
- Location of swing set or tree swing
- Sound Walls: Maintenance of said wall or erecting a wall
- Community Mailbox maintenance or repairs needed
- Street Lights in Gated Communities or Decorative Street Lights
- Yard/Home Tools in yard
- Window A/C Units
- Junk Located in a Vehicle
- Personal Flags on Display
- Statues in Yard
- Flower Bed Medians in Subdivisions

