

SPRING 2024



LAKE OLYMPIA

Beautiful homes and exceptional living - welcome home.



It's time to sign up for the Swim Team!

Photo submitted by Joy Schindler

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Welcome to the New Year 2024!! We had a great annual state of the community at our January 9th general meeting. We were able to provide all updates on the key principles we have been focusing on for the past year. In addition, we wanted to thank our outgoing Director Beth Szescila for her dedication to the LOCA Board. She has been a fantastic board member as well as a good friend. We appreciate her continuing as Chair of the Landscaping Committee, and always welcome her fantastic expertise on plants and flowers.



We would also like to welcome Jerry Thayil as our New Director voted in at the annual meeting and welcome his experience and new insights. Moreover, both Kermit Pittman and I were voted in for another 3-year term as Directors. The new officers for this year are as follows:

- President: Jonathan Winfield
- Vice President: Mark Kramer
- Secretary: Debra Grade
- Treasurer: Daphne Perry-Crutchler
- The Newsletter will continue to be managed by Marie Moore

We are also pleased to announce our new General Manager from Crest Management, Ja'Lisa Jorden.

Lastly, the board is continuing to focus on our key principles for the 2024 calendar year, regarding: (1). Fiduciary responsibilities; (2). Review of large capital projects; and (3). Community Involvement, which are as follows:

Fiduciary Responsibility

- Maintaining responsible tight management of expenses as well as requiring a minimum three bids for large projects.

Capital Projects

Work In Process

- Pickle ball courts, a NEW capital community improvement project contract has been approved – Targeting completion Spring 2024

Upcoming Capital Projects

- Continuation of support with Missouri City concerning upgrade of Freedom Tree Park 2024

Community Involvement

- Clubhouse rentals
- Support of all community activities heading into spring and summer.

Please do not hesitate to contact our management company or the board with any questions.

Jonathan Winfield,
President, Lake Olympia Civic Association

Editor's Note:

REGISTER at www.crest-management.com to receive electronic communications and access your account and electronic forms. 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. If you need assistance registering call 281-835-5992 M-F from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. You may also access the Newsletter online from the home page – go to Meetings, Forms, Public Forms and Community News. Please contribute photos and articles of interest to the newsletter at: newsletter@lakeolympia.org.

**LAKE OLYMPIA
CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

BOARD MEMBERS

- President Jonathan Winfield
 Vice President Mark Kramer
 Treasurer Daphne Perry-Crutchler
 Secretary Debra Grade
 Director Kermit Pittman
 Director Marie Moore
 Director Jerry Thayil
Newsletter Editor

Marie Moore
newsletter@lakeolympia.org
 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

General Manager: Ja'Lisa Jorden
jalisaj@crest-management.com

Assistant Manager: Candy Curtis
candyc@crest-management.com

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Please contact us if you are a homeowner reporting a violation or if you have general inquiries.

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LATE WINTER LANDSCAPING NEWS

Spring is almost here and hopefully there isn't another killing freeze in the weather forecast. Our landscaping service, Superior LawnCare, did a great job of covering our most cold sensitive plants with frost cloth during last month's freezing temperatures. Frost cloth can't prevent all damage to tender vegetation, but it can keep those plants from dying and can encourage perennials to come back faster.

Much of January and February has been spent determining the location of dead and missing plants all around Lake Olympia and creating proposals for replacing them. We want to be able to start filling in the empty spaces in our flowerbeds as soon as the danger of a freeze has passed. If you have plants in your area that need replacing, please let Management know so they can pass that information on to the Landscape Committee.

The Landscape Committee is currently selecting the flowers to be planted for our spring seasonal color, as well as those that will be installed in the middle of the summer. Lake Olympia has 3 seasonal color changes each year.

Beth Szescila, *Publicity Chair*
Landscape Committee

Lake Olympia Garden and Social Club News

The Lake Olympia Garden and Social Club has a busy spring season planned. The club meets at the Lake Olympia Clubhouse at 180 Marina Blvd. on the third Friday of each month. Meetings start at 9:00 AM with refreshments, followed by a business meeting and speaker presentation. In addition, on the first Friday of each month the group ventures to local places of interest and lunch.

On March 1, the club heads to Navasota for a tour of Bee Weavers beekeeping and honey farm, followed by lunch at the wonderful nursery, Martha's Bloomers. At our March 15 meeting, Danessa Yaschuk, founder of SweetNes Honey Boutique, will discuss how beekeeping led her to start her successful business.

On April 5, the group will go to the Antique Rose Garden in Brennan, enjoying the bluebonnets along the route. Members and guests are encouraged to attend the April 19 meeting for a presentation on telephone and internet scams by Angel Hanzik, State Project Coordinator for the Better Business Bureau Education Foundation. Finally, on May 3 the Garden Club will visit the Houston Arboretum for a tour of native plants and celebrate with a year-end party on May 17.

The Lake Olympia Garden and Social Club is open to anyone in the area, male or female, who is interested in gardening and/or meeting new people from the area. For more information contact Laura Gallagher at peeweegirls@gmail.com.

Beth Szescila, *Publicity Chair*

OFFICE CLOSURE CALENDAR 2024

The Office will be closed on the following Dates:

March 29th- Good Friday Holiday

May 27th- Memorial Day

July 4th- Fourth of July

September 2nd- Labor Day

November 28th-29th- Thanksgiving

December 6th- Crest Mandatory Event

December 24th-25th- Christmas

December 31st-January 2nd- New Years

NEW MONTHLY BOARD MEETING FORMAT

- Every 4th Thursday of the month
November meeting date to be announced
No meeting in December
- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. - Executive Session (Board only)
- 7:00 p.m. Homeowner Forum – Residents may ask questions and address the board; please sign up upon entering to do so. Because the agenda is usually full, please try to summarize your concerns to two minutes.

Once the Homeowner Forum ends, residents are encouraged to stay for the duration of the meeting but may no longer speak at this time.

MANAGER'S CORNER



My name is Ja'Lisa J., and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the newest member of the Lake Olympia Community. Having recently relocated from the north suburbs of Chicago, IL, to the vibrant city of Houston, Texas, in 2016, I am eager to bring my expertise and passion for community management to Lake Olympia.

In my professional journey, I have achieved Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA) and Association Management Specialist (AMS) credentials within the Homeowner Association Management Industry. With 14 years of experience in overseeing non-profit organizations' budgets, programming, and operations across various states, I have dedicated the past eight years specifically to managing Homeowner's Associations within the greater Houston area.

Beyond my professional accomplishments, I find joy in various personal pursuits. I am an avid reader, enjoy exploring local shops, cherish moments spent with my fur baby, and have a particular fondness for attending museum exhibits. A unique aspect of my life is my longstanding passion for collecting Looney Tunes Tweety Bird memorabilia since childhood.

I am genuinely enthusiastic about contributing to the Lake Olympia Community and am committed to fostering a positive and thriving environment for its residents. I look forward to the opportunity to connect with each of you and collaborate on the continued success of our community.

Thank you for welcoming me to the Lake Olympia family. I am eager to embark on this journey and make lasting contributions to the community for years to come.

Ja'Lisa Jorden,
General Manager

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE LAKE COMMITTEE

Hello everyone. We appear to have made it through the winter with a full lake. Let's hope this year we don't experience the drought of 2023 that led to very low water levels, and difficult conditions for managing the lake. Due to those low water conditions, we were able to only get in one boat parade last year, but unfortunately could not have our holiday parade and celebration.

As the weather begins to warm up, I assume more people will be considering buying a new boat. Please remember the following rules: Boat Length (Max. 18ft.), Width (Max. 10 ft.), and motor HP (Max. 8 HP). All boats must be registered at our onsite office before entering the lake. I would strongly suggest you contact me before purchasing a boat, so we can verify everything on your boat. If you have any questions about purchasing a boat, please contact Gary Leist.

Last year we solicited donations for stocking the lake. Approximately \$6,380 was pledged. Of that amount, we spent approximately \$3,000 last spring. We did not have a follow-up fish stocking in the fall because of the low lake levels. With the remaining funds we will look into an additional fish stocking this year. Danbury Lake Manage also gave us approximately 400 small fingerling bass in December when they cleaned out some of their stock tanks at yearend.

I ask everyone who uses or lives on the lake to do their part to preserve our environment. Do not use weed and feed or harsh chemicals near the lake. Boat users should maintain a speed so as not to create a wake that stirs up lake sediment or erodes the shoreline. Lake front residents should not clearcut vegetation on the shoreline which serves as habitat for shore birds. In fact, anyone living on a shoreline without a bulkhead, should not be trespassing into the MUD District property behind their homes to remove any tree(s), without having written permission from the MUD District or HOA. Vegetation may only be cut no lower than one foot, not including trees, and there shall be no substantial disturbance of the root systems of any vegetation in the District Wetlands.

If you have any lake related questions, please contact Gary Leist (galeist@yahoo.com). You can also find information on our Lake Olympia website in the document "Lake Olympia - Waterway & Boating Rules.pdf". You will need to have your login id to access this document.

<https://www.crest-management.com/>

Gary Leist, Chair
Lake Committee



Photo taken by Linda Day

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Trees and Architectural Control Committee Approval

Trees and landscaping are usually considered by homeowners to be an added value. Many years ago, the original developer set out the basics for yards and trees in Lake Olympia, and we still follow those rules today.

From time to time, the management company is asked for permission to remove a tree growing at a home. It may be a tree on the owner's lot or one next door. It is important to note that removal of any tree requires approval from the Architectural Control Committee in advance of any removal taking place. The request will go through the formal process, accessed through the website online, as an Exterior Modification Request (EMR) with the requirement to provide a plan to replace the tree, as well. Additional information from a certified arborist may be required to prove disease, if that's the reason for removal, or a full landscaping plan if a new design is proposed. Because a tree survey is done on each lot at the time a home is built, a request to remove a tree applies to all trees, front, back or side.

In Lake Olympia, all homes are required to have two trees in the front yard and if they are on a corner, an additional three trees on the side. The trees must be "hard wood" and most trees you see in our area are just that. One interesting thing to note is that palm trees are not considered hardwoods, even though you do see them in Lake Olympia. They can be put in place in addition to the hardwoods and can be used to create a nice landscaping design.

It is important to note that some sections of Lake Olympia have additional requirements, not just for trees, so always be sure to check the Lake Olympia covenants before moving ahead with plans. Our management representatives can assist with that process.

Trees are important to our community not just because they look good, but also because of the cooling shade they provide to our homes and the important work they do for our environment. Many are concerned these days about global warming and how we can help stabilize and rebuild the ozone layer. Trees are an easy way to help clean the air naturally and they provide the added benefits already discussed. To learn more about how trees benefit our environment, do an internet search for "trees and ozone reduction" to find a variety of sources for information.

Here in Lake Olympia, we really enjoy our trees, lakes, and natural surroundings. Let's work together and with the ACC to keep things beautiful!

Adrienne Barker, Chair
Architectural Control Committee

LAKE OLYMPIA SWIM TEAM - TIGER SHARKS



Early Registration opens February 24th • www.lostts.org

Lake Olympia has hosted a swim team since 1988, providing fun for our children every summer from May to mid-July. It is a volunteer run organization and is open to children ages 5 – 18 years old. We are limited to 200 swimmers, so register early!

Coaches will work to improve technique in 4 strokes: Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke and Butterfly. Young children are probably ready for the team if they are comfortable in the water and will take a few strokes on their own. At the end of the new swimmer orientation period, prospective members must be able to meet the following requirements:

6 and under – able to move in the water for one half length of the pool

7 and over – able to swim the full length of the pool

Note: This is a swim team, NOT a learn to swim team. Depending on staffing and numbers, some swimmers may be kept on a "practice team" if not ready for competition.

February 24 – Registration opens @ www.lostts.org

April 29 - after school practices begin (see website for times)

More information and dates can be found on our website as they are made available. There is also contact info. for any questions you may have.

This is a wonderful opportunity to belong to a great organization.

Come swim with the Tiger Sharks!

Joy Schindler, Vice-President
Lake Olympia Swim Team

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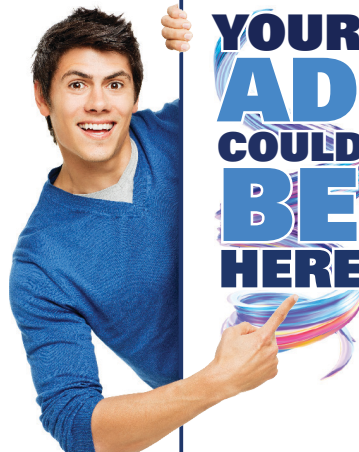
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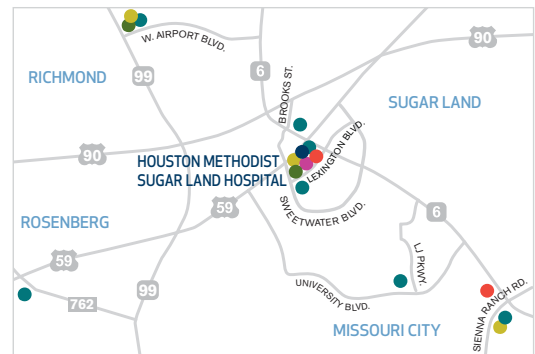


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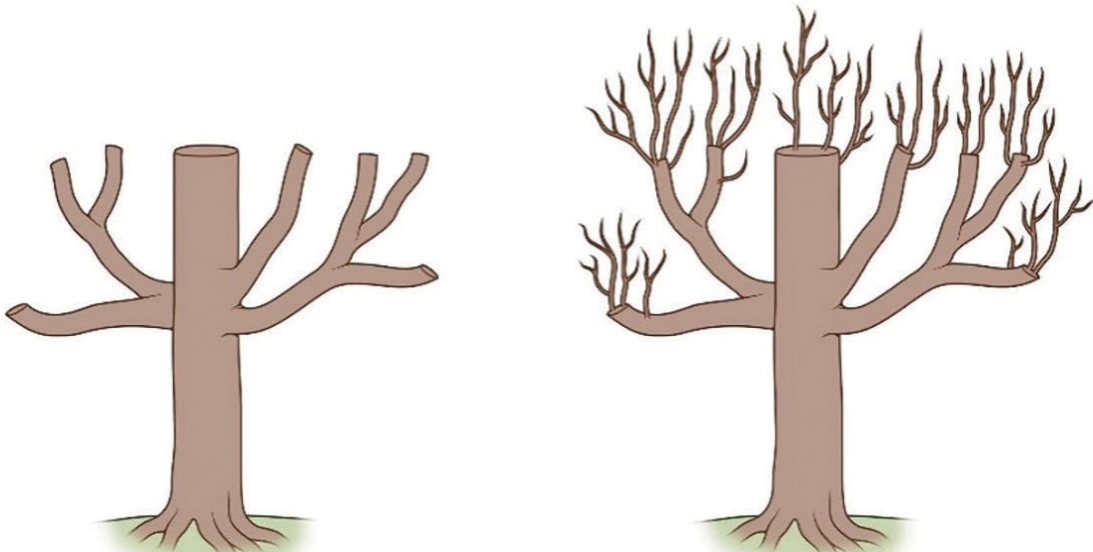
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NEVER TOP TREES!

It's time to trim trees, so please inspect your front yard trees to see if they need trimming. Trees should have a clearance of 8 ft. over the sidewalks and 13 ft over streets. This is also a Missouri City ordinance.

We have noticed that some residents have "topped" their trees. Topping a tree is the removal of the upper main branches (top or canopy) and central stem of the tree. The result is an unsightly tree with thin upright small branches called water sprouts at the top. **Topping trees is not allowed in Lake Olympia** as topping a tree seriously affects its health and makes the tree susceptible to disease, decay, and insects. In addition, topping permanently disfigures and damages the tree and may even kill it. Once a tree is topped, it can never be fully restored.

Crepe Myrtles: Crepe Myrtles should never be pruned in the same place every year. Big ugly knuckles or knots form on the end of the branches and disfigure the tree. This is referred to as "crepe murder". Topping not only destroys the natural beauty of the tree but can leave it susceptible to disease and infection. You must only prune a few inches above where you pruned the tree the year before.



Topped Tree

Growth After Topping