Recap of 9/15/22 Laurel Creek HOA Board Meeting

The members of the board want to thank the 15 residents who attended the meeting.

Our meeting began with a visit from Deputy Wayne Curry, a Lieutenant in the Precinct #4 Constable’s office. He shared a lot of important information.

First, the **Precinct 4 non-emergency # is 281-376-3472**. He recommends putting it into your phone immediately and naming the contact **A-Precinct 4** or **A-Constable**. This will put it near the top of your contacts list. The constables will have the fastest response time to any incident so always call them first. Continue to use 911 for emergencies.

The **Harris County Sheriff non-emergency number is 713-221-6000.** Name this one **A-Sheriff.** Use this number if you are away from this area. If you are involved in an accident or incident please call from that location. Do not wait until you get home to call.

Lt. Curry explained that the main difference between the Sheriff’s office and the Constable’s is that the Sheriff has jurisdiction over Harris County and the Jails, while Constables have jurisdiction over 254 counties and the Courts. Constables cover evictions, traffic accidents, small and large crimes, etc., although certain crimes like sexual assaults are turned over to the Sheriff’s office. Since the constables patrol our area, they are always the ones to call first as they can be there soonest and take the report. The Houston Police Dept only has jurisdiction within the city limits of Houston (which does not include Laurel Creek).

Our MUD district, Windfern Forest Utility District, currently pays for two 70/30 contract Constable’s deputies. That means WFUD pays 70% of two specific deputies’ salaries so that they will patrol in our district only. WFUD includes various sections of Windfern Forest, Windfern Gardens, Woodwind Lakes, and Laurel Creek. Patrols provide coverage in this area 24/7.

Lt. Curry has many crime prevention tips, the most important of which is VISIBILITY. His recommendations include adding motion lights in your driveway and adding a Ring-type doorbell camera. Officers on patrol will drive over to your house at night if they see the driveway lights come on to see why and they will review doorbell camera footage.

He recommends calling in suspicious vehicles, persons and any crimes no matter how small. If there is a lot of crime reported in an area then a Special Resources Unit will increase patrols in that area, so report everything.

Any noise over 85 decibels is against state law. Add a decibel meter app to your phone to check.

Add skids on your vehicles to protect against catalytic converter theft.

At “9 o’clock, lock it up” meaning ensure all car and house doors are closed and locked at 9pm.

When you go on vacation, you can ask the constables to do a home check for you by signing up for a Vacation Watch online: <https://www.constablepct4.com/vacation-watch-request.html>

During the rest of the meeting, our proposed 2023 budget was reviewed and approved. There will be no increase in homeowner dues.

Recent projects were reviewed:

* The erosion project at the main entrance was completed
* All brick entrance monuments were power washed
* Dead trees were removed from Gessner and in LC
* We replaced the American flag at the gazebo
* We installed two new play fort rope ladders
* We have made multiple irrigation repairs
* Trees and shrubs around fire access gate at Windfern were cut back to improve visibility

Possible upcoming projects:

* We are getting bids on new landscaping to replace old and missing plants
* We are getting bids to change the HOA-owned fences on Windfern to make them more secure
* We are looking into having all trees that block streetlights trimmed back to increase visibility

Additional safety tips were offered by the board since we want to encourage members to be vigilant and increase their own security:

* Add Nest or Ring cameras to doorbells
* Add flood lights to driveways and dark spots in front yards
* Leave front porch light on at night and consider installing brighter LED bulbs
* Trim trees blocking streetlights
* Lower hedges around home to increase visibility
* Get to know neighbors (National Night Out is October 4th -- there will be an event here at the gazebo park)
* Report any incidents to constables
* Clean out garages so cars can park inside
* Keep house and cars locked
* Install a home alarm system
* Keep your garage doors closed when possible…don’t advertise

If you have questions about our trash contract or our patrols, the WFUD has board meetings which are open to the public at 4:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the District Administration Building, [14410 Mauna Loa Lane, Houston, Texas 77040.](https://goo.gl/maps/4QCBw1z29Gq)

WFUD District:

