

## News & Updates for March 31, 2008 Weston Lakes Property Owners Association

**Garbage Collection Contracts:** The company which has had the contracts for garbage & trash collection for the past year will be replaced at the beginning of May. MUD #81 has contracted with WCA for service to approximately 660 homes in its jurisdiction; the POA is seeking a contract with WCA on similar terms for the homes in Riverwood Forest sections 1 and 2. MUD #81 adds the cost of the garbage & trash collection service to the monthly residential water bills of its customers while the POA invoices the Riverwood Forest residents for the service.

The change in contractors for this service is a result of the competitive bidding process of the MUD. The new contractor has better, newer equipment (less subject to breakdowns and less likely to fail to complete the routes as scheduled). WCA is also a local company compared to the Dallas headquarters of the present company.

The cost of garbage & trash collection has been steadily increasing for several years. The obvious rise in fuel prices is exacerbated by the distances between the contractor's landfill and service points. The cost of permitting and operating a landfill is escalating because we are in one of the fastest growing U.S. population centers. For Weston Lakes, one factor is the average pounds-per-week-per-household that is hauled away ... while we enjoy our yards and country setting, their maintenance substantially increases the loads compared to our urban neighbors. A second factor is the "garage door" pick-up service ... an extra minute per house to provide this service adds one man-hour for every 60 houses. If 50% of the homes elect this convenience it requires an additional man in the crew. None of these factors are good or bad ... we just need to consider them as the service and cost are evaluated.

**Report on the Town Hall Meeting:** Last Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 238 residents gathered in the Weston Lakes Country Club ballroom to hear two authorities on city incorporation and government answer questions on the topics. The POA sponsored the meeting so that voters could gather facts as they decide on how to vote in the Special Election on **May 10<sup>th</sup>** on the proposal to incorporate Weston Lakes as a city. See the **News & Update** posting of **March 10**, 2008, for more information on the Special Election including **page 2** which has details on when and where early voting takes place. (Hint ... you can vote as early as April 28<sup>th</sup>.)