**Woodhaven HOA Board of Directors**

**Feeding Wildlife**

Owners/Residents,

We have seen an increase in wildlife around the complex. Squirrels, mice, wild rabbits, geese, ducks, etc. And with an increase in small wildlife comes an increase in snakes. Understanding that we live next to a golf course and a creek, there are some things we can do to not encourage wildlife to take up residence on our property. While most of us are probably positive about wildlife in general, they can cause some issues for us.

Of course, the issues with mice are well known. We have placed bait boxes throughout the complex. The best way to prevent mice from coming on our property is to keep our patios and balconies free of clutter and any food.

Geese and ducks are not much of an issue because they usually stay on the golf course. But geese and ducks are prolific vegetation consumers and can do a lot of damage to our landscape and garden, not to mention a significant amount of feces. Feces is well known for having the potential to spread diseases.

Wild rabbits have recently appeared on our complex. If you notice, they are not really afraid of humans, which is not good. They are also prolific vegetation consumers and burrow in the ground. They can do a lot of damage to our landscape and garden, not to mention a significant amount of feces. Again, we can help prevent wild rabbits from coming on our property by keeping our patios free of clutter and any food.

The best way to keep snakes off our property is by limiting the small wildlife on our property. Most of the snakes are small rat snakes or garden snakes, but we have seen several water moccasins recently.

In particular, there has been an increase in the squirrel population on our property. Of course, our beautiful native live oak trees are a haven for squirrels, so we live with the fact that we will have squirrels on our property. But we do not want to encourage more squirrels to take up residence. Feeding of squirrels is harmful to the squirrels, the landscaping and potentially the buildings. It is also potentially not safe for residents and pets.

Attached is a Fact Sheet discussing some of the consequences of feeding squirrels. Please read it carefully.

The Woodhaven HOA Board of Directors is requesting that residents not feed any wildlife on our property. It is not only harmful for the wildlife, but can be harmful to us and our pets and damage our property. Residents observed feeding wildlife will first be given a warning and then issued a citation if it persists.

Thank you for your consideration.