

Long's Pond ESTATES

Homeowners Association Newsletter

www.longspnd.org

April 2013

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's spring time and everyone is looking forward to spending time outdoors. Keep in mind, people are out on the streets throughout the neighborhood walking, jogging, or riding bikes. So keep an eye out for your neighbors.

I would urge everyone to take a minute to think about taking part in the neighborhood Home Owners Association (HOA). Please remember, if we don't get any interest from you in joining the Board, and the Board disbands, the control of the development would fall to the management company - with no guidance from the people who live here. Someone has to manage what they do for us.

With that being said, I would like to remind our members what the duties or goals are of the Board of Directors (BOD). We are here only to maintain the value of the homes within the community. This will only be completed if the HOA members follow the Covenants and ARC guidelines that were agreed upon at the time our homes were purchased. The Board and the ARC committee members have the daunting task of enforcing those very Covenants. The simplest way for this to go smoothly is that all members apply for approval before building or making any architectural changes to their home or yard. If this procedure is followed, structures would meet all the guidelines and the violation process would not be needed. A great benefit of following this process is that you would not have to worry about the current board or a future board sending out a violation letter. And if they would, you have it documented that it had been approved.

The Long's Pond Estates Covenants are a common document used by developers and were written with the developer's interest in mind. While

the board might not always agree with some of the Covenants, we are here to make sure they are carried out. The Board only makes decisions with issues going on within our neighborhood with a majority vote; this is not something we do just to get something done that one person wants to do. The majority has voted, and then we carry it out. Our Covenant only requires one annual meeting of the members per year. While I don't think this is enough for any neighborhood to have, we also have to look at the participation that we got when we were having regular meetings. When the participation diminished, so did the meetings. As a board, I feel we are acting in a way that the members of the HOA would like to keep our property values as high as possible. I also believe we, as a board, should be asking all our members before doing any projects. As was stated earlier, this is not a required step. Because this is not required, there does not have to be a quorum in order to have a vote. Basically, the Board is asking the members their opinion as to how they would like the Board to vote. The Board members can still vote how they see fit, but have always voted in a way to maintain our property values.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the BOD at board@longspnd.org.

In closing I would like to thank the current BOD for the hard work they have put in so far this year and look forward to working with everybody in the coming months.

Jon Handrock
President – Longs Pond HOA
2012-2013



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 17, 2013 at 7:30 PM
Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at 7:30 PM

ANNUAL MEETING:

Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 7 PM

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

It's time to get busy cleaning out your attic, closet, or garage, because **Saturday, May 18th** is scheduled as our Annual Long's Pond Estates Neighborhood Garage Sale day. The hours are between 8am-12pm. We have approximately 150 families in our neighborhood, and we will be advertising this information in **The State** newspaper.

This would be a great time to get a jumpstart on spring cleaning, if you haven't already. Get your kids involved and set up a Lemonade or Kool-Aid stand. All of us can make a little money and get rid of that extra clutter. ☺

Make your sale stand out by placing balloons on your mailbox to draw in the crowds...everyone loves a party... AND you can use this opportunity to get to know some of your neighbors as well! I look forward to seeing everyone.....'cause I like to cruise the neighborhood for those great bargains!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Carolina Springs Middle School (CSMS) is participating in a program this year designed to recycle unwanted clothing and footwear for use by those less fortunate than ourselves and in third world countries. **Go Green Clothing Recyclers (GGCR)**, partnering with **Edge Outreach**, provides an environmentally and socially conscious community service while promoting the educational objectives that we desire for our students! This school's year-long collections will help to raise money for **the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)**....a program dedicated to helping provide support to our country's returning veterans. All money raised will go directly to the WWP at the end of the year.

Please, consider supporting CSMS's efforts by donating your unsold clothing and footwear to this cause following our Community Yard Sale on May 18. Anyone interested in contributing can leave their bagged-up donation beside their mailbox after the sale ends at 12 pm. To make this as hassle-free as possible, I will come around the neighborhood and collect **CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR ONLY** at 2 pm for drop-off at the school on Monday. All you have to do is bag up your clothing in one bag and your footwear in another, as these are processed separately.

If you would like more information about both of these programs, follow these links:

<http://www.edgeoutreach.com/go-green-clothing-recyclers-and-edge-outreach>

<http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>

I hope that our community can help the school with this ongoing project.

Thanks in advance for your donations & for your support!

Jenny Bullard
CSMS PTSA School Functions Committee Chair
LPHOA Member-at-Large

HOA'S HELP TO PRESERVE VALUE

If you are reading this newsletter, then you probably pursued buying in a neighborhood with an active HOA like Longs Pond Estates, or you

certainly read the HOA documents – including the Covenants and By-Laws – before putting an offer in on your home.

Each member of the Board of Directors agreed to volunteer their time for 1 - 3 years, to running the day-to-day affairs of the HOA, as well as running open meetings and ensuring the covenants and guidelines are being followed by the residents. In addition to these commitments, the Board wants to keep Long's Pond Estates a desirable place to live for all homeowners, current and future.

There are a number of beautification projects being discussed. Be sure to make your ideas known as well. E-mail board@longspond.org with your ideas.

To stay involved in our HOA, read the board meeting minutes found on the Long's Pond Estates Home Owners Association website. If you need a user name and password or have misplaced yours, please e-mail: secretary@longspond.org to receive it.

You can also stay involved by volunteering your time as a future board member or volunteer on any of our committees. Remember, if there is no Board, then the management company will be in charge of the neighborhood. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail president@longspond.org.

COMMON LOT BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

If you haven't been by the common lot lately, be sure to drive by and take notice of the new trees planted around the lot enhancing our subdivision and our community area. Parents, please be aware of the common lot rules (*pictured*) and share these with your children. We want to ensure that all children who enjoy the lot respect the property by not disfiguring the lot or leaving trash behind. The HOA Board would also like to thank the LPE neighbors who volunteered their time to pick up trash and clean the signs located on the common lot this month, complimenting the recent transformation.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Even though we use water every day, it's easy to take it for granted. Just imagine how you would function without clean water. It's everyone's

responsibility to conserve and protect water resources. The decisions and actions you make today truly affect our water resources for the future. The following suggestions will help you get in the habit of saving water in the great outdoors:

- Get a rain gauge to measure rainfall. One inch of rain per week is generally sufficient for lawns and gardens. Supplement only when rainfall is inadequate.
- Use mulch around landscape plantings. Mulch will help eliminate weeds and hold moisture in the soil.
- Select hardy plants that don't need much water. Native plants that are well adapted to your climate and soils will survive well without supplemental watering.
- Water during the cool part of the day to avoid rapid evaporation.
- Raise the mowing heights on your lawn mower. This promotes healthier grass that can better survive dry periods.
- When watering is necessary, water slowly and thoroughly. If you notice puddles or runoff, turn water off and wait for water to soak in. Also be sure your sprinkler puts water where you need it—not on driveways or sidewalks.
- Wash cars efficiently. First give the car a quick rinse, and then turn the water off. Wash one section of the car at a time and rinse that section quickly. Turn the water off each time.

Visit www.auduboninternational.org for more conservation tips.

OUTDOOR SAFETY TIPS

The Association wants your kids to be safe while riding their bikes and scooters in the community, and recognize that you can't be there to watch them all the time. Here are four steps that could increase their safety when you're not around.

- Teach kids how to fall. Learning how to ride correctly is only part of what keeps a kid safe. Falls are inevitable, and teaching your children to fall correctly will prevent many serious injuries. Teach them to roll on impact, relax their body, and try to land on their padded and fleshiest parts.

- Check equipment. Check bikes and scooters for cracks or dents, sharp metal parts, jutting edges and slippery surfaces. Replace defective equipment, consult a professional for repairs and apply self-adhesive, non-slip material to slippery surfaces.

- Make a rule for your kids—one person to each piece of equipment. They might be less likely to hop on a friend’s scooter if they know it’s unsafe *and* that they’ll have to pay for replacing it when it breaks.

- Require protective equipment. Scooters, roller blades, bikes and similar equipment cause thousands of injuries—and even some deaths—every year. Make sure your children are wearing helmets, knee pads and elbow pads, *especially* if they are just learning. Buy a helmet your kid thinks is cool and you know is safe—it’s worth the extra money if your child is more likely to wear it.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Hello neighbors! We need your help. In order to better welcome new home owners to our neighborhood, we would like to provide them with a little something from you. If you are interested in promoting your small business to new neighbors, please e-mail welcome@longspond.org and let us know what type of marketing materials you would like to donate to our Welcome to the Neighborhood gift basket. Examples of marketing materials: samples, coupons, coffee mugs, pens, bags, flash drives, tumblers, golf tees, umbrellas...the list goes on. We would like to ask for 10 marketing materials so that we can have 10 welcome baskets always on stand-by. Any questions please just ask.

Have some news to share with the neighborhood? Send us your good news: welcome@longspond.org.

YARD OF THE MONTH KICK-OFF!!

Hello to all Long’s Pond Estate Homeowners! Another spring is upon us, and I have noticed a lot of activity in our neighborhood as we all get out and enjoy the warmer temperatures.

April will be our first awarded Yard of the Month (YOTM), so make sure yours looks spectacular!

Remember, the YOTM recognition sign will be placed in your yard until the next month is awarded AND you will receive a \$25 Lowes Gift Card if chosen. So, it actually pays to get outside and spruce-up your lot.

Nominations are always welcome at bryjen2598@windstream.net. Good luck to everyone, and may the best yard win!

Jenny Bullard
YOTM Committee Chair

TRIVIA CORNER

Arnold Schwarzenegger had competition when auditioning for the lead role in the 1984 film *The Terminator*. O.J. Simpson was seriously considered for the role of cyborg but was eventually dismissed. Why? "People would never have believed a nice guy like O.J. could play the part of a ruthless killer," a studio executive said.

Stupid History: Tales of Stupidity, Strangeness and Mythconceptions Throughout the Ages, 2007



The average person eats 86-million calories in their lifetime.



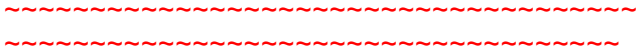
Spiders don’t get caught in their own webs because they have self-oiling legs.



MYTH: The chameleon changes color to match its background.

TRUTH: Chameleons do have the ability to change color instantly, but not to match the color of their surroundings. The color shift is a reaction to fear or extreme changes in temperature or light.

Stupid History: Tales of Stupidity, Strangeness and Mythconceptions Throughout the Ages, 2007



In the new Disney movie, *OZ: The Great and Powerful*, there are no ruby slippers. Disney can't use them because Warner Brothers owns the rights.