Homeowners Association Newsletter

www.longspond.org

February 2008

President's Note

In 1933 President Franklin Roosevelt proposed a Good Neighbor policy with Latin America. It was basically meant to foster good will and good working climate between the United States and the many countries to the south. Different bodies have instituted good neighbor policies in a more local fashion. In Longs Pond Estates we do not have a written Good Neighbor Policy per se. It is generally assumed that the people around you will be kind, considerate, friendly, and helpful. I would rather see a good neighbor attitude than a good neighbor policy. A Good Neighbor attitude is something beyond rules and regulations. These come into play when folks do not act like good neighbors. Good neighbors respect the property and habitation those around them. They smile and shake hands and extend greetings. They are tolerant of differences. If there is discord they meet and talk over the problem and come to a mutually satisfactory plan. At times they may have get-togethers, help with chores or child care, exchange gifts or share meals. It's an old fashioned idea of community and interdependence. Our society has gotten so complicated and busy that we rarely interact with those we live beside. There was a time when neighbors lived miles apart and saw each other maybe once a week at church. Those peo-

ple knew more about each other and were more cordial that most of us are today with someone who lives a mere few feet away.

In December one of our neighbors' suffered the tragedy of a house fire. All was destroyed except their spirit. Our community rallied around this family and offered support in funds, goods, and encouragement. Their lot has been cleared and construction will begin soon. That disaster brought out the best in Longs Pond. We moved a little further down the road to being a strong, cohesive neighborhood. So a good neighbor is not just the person next door it is the community as a whole. Goodness is not just helping on time of need but it's the everyday interaction. Do you know the people next to you or a few doors down or across the street?

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President's Note (cont'd from

We have 150 homes in this community. That means there well over three hundred interesting stories to hear and lives to learn from. Your Board of directors is planning more social events like the party we had in December. Hopefully the next one will be on the commons area when the weather warms up. Come be with us, meet your neighbors and share some life stories. You will probably find some folks a lot like you and you will probably find some a lot different than you. Come meet a good neighbor.

Stay Well, Lindsey

News from the Welcoming Committee

Thanks to all who helped the Jones family! The outpouring of support and contributions during their difficult time after the fire was overwhelming.

We'd like to welcome the following families to our neighborhood:

Alfreda Doherty and Ronald Renno 153 Knotts Road

John and Sandra Owens 1430 Knotts Haven Loop

Please notify the Welcoming Committee (808-1794) of any new births, as we don't want to miss anyone.

Debbie Kessel and Sheryl Wood

Water, Water Everywhere, Nowhere



"Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink". This familiar line of literature comes from Rime of the Ancient Mariner. This is not quite the situation we find ourselves in today. For us that

line might better be written, "Water, water nowhere." In the southeast we are accustomed to lots of trees and woodlands, green lawns, gardens, and beautiful if not exotic plants. It is easy to deceive ourselves into thinking that there is no water shortage. But we are in the midst of one of the worst droughts on record.

Florida, Georgia and Alabama have entered a water sharing agreement. South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama are

declared to be in exceptional drought status by the U.S. government. At various times authorities have shut down carwashes, bans have been declared on outdoor watering, and filling of swimming pools, or other extravagant uses of water. Some towns and cities have resorted to trucking water in from other areas. Municipal and residential wells are drying up. Lake and reservoir levels are at all time lows. Lake Lanier is the primary water source for Atlanta. Some experts believe that at current usage and reserve levels that it could be dry in as little as four months. Atlanta will be crises and chaos. A drive across Lake Murray dam reveals a water level that had been low for several years.

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Water (cont'd from page 2)

Some of that is due to construction but some is due to the drought. It is in our nature to be optimistic and believe that relief is just around the corner or that the next rain will reverse the water crisis. But that is false hope. We need to be proactive now to protect our own water future.

There are basically two ways to talk about water consumption. We can conserve water and we can harvest water. If we honestly look at our daily water usage we can find there are many ways that we can cut down on amount of water we use. Here is a list of things to consider. Only use your dish washer and clothes washer when you have a full load. Do not pre-rinse dishes before using the dish washer. Better yet, wash dishes by hand and you will save 10 to 15 gallons of water. Take short showers or Navy showers. If you take baths only run enough water to do the job not long luxurious soaks. Ask yourself if you really need to shower every day. When using the sink to brush teeth or shave do not let it run the whole time. When you get something to drink only pour what you will actually consume. Toilets on average use more water than washing machine. Use water displacement devices in the toilet tank. Do you really need to flush the toilet every time you use it? "If its yellow let it stay, if its brown flush it down." Fix leaky fixtures. Use flow restrictors on sinks and showers. Lawn sprinkler systems can easily double you water consumption during the summer. When watering your lawn make sure you are only watering the grass not the cement and pavement. Grass will grow, cement will not. Water in the cool of the day when there is little or no wind. Use automatic watering systems and timers. Taking care of outside watering needs is perfect place to consider water harvesting.

The most obvious and simplest way to harvest water is to catch rain runoff. The gutters on your house funnel gallons of water into a few central collection points. One inch of rainfall can yield as much as 700 gallons. For years many people have rain barrels to capture this free source of water for using on lawns and gardens or watering animals. This age old practice seems to have been forgotten by modern folk. There are several new twists on this idea. If you chose to catch your rainwater, use tasteful catchment containers or disguise them with plantings or yard ornamentation. Gray water harvesting is a more complex proposition. This essentially involves two drain systems in your home. The toilet water or black water goes into a standard septic system. All the other water from showers, tubs, sinks, and appliances goes into a separate collection system for a second use such as watering lawns and gardens. In the olden days this water was allowed to just run out in the ground. Today most localities require special permits for gray water systems. This water needs to be filtered before it is used. But again this water can be used for outdoor purposes.

Take time to look at your water usage. See if there are ways that you can be thriftier with this valuable natural resource. Here in Lexington County we have not been forced into water restriction, rationing, or banning of certain uses. But that day is looming on the horizon. If we start to conserve and harvest water now we can stave off the inevitable a little longer. When restrictions and ban do come along we will be better prepared to work within those limitations.

Monthly Budget: 1/1/2008 through 1/31/2008

The following table details the budget status as of January 31, 2008. Our expenses have been less than budget and we have a favorable variance for total expenses.

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income			
Association Dues	700.00	-	700.00
Total Income	700.00	-	700.00
Expense:			
Accounting	-	25.00	25.00
Capitol Reserve	-	395.83	395.83
Community Events	-	125.00	125.00
Copies	-	8.33	8.33
Hall Rental	-	66.67	66.67
Insurance	-	91.67	91.67
Landscaping	130.00	833.33	703.33
Landscaping: Lighting Maint.	-	20.83	20.83
Landscaping : Sprinkler Maint.	-	33.33	33.33
Legal	-	41.67	41.67
News Letter	-	100.00	100.00
Postage	-	50.00	50.00
Supplies	-	62.50	62.50
Taxes			
Taxes	78.49	33.33	(45.16)
Utilities			
Utilities : Electricity	42.52	50.00	7.48
Total Expenses	121.01	1,937.49	1,816.48
Total:	578.99	(1,937.49)	2,516.48

Cash balance 1/31/08

27,146.76

Favorite Banana Cake Recipe



Bananas are one of the few fruits that's plentiful to-day, but if you don't eat them quickly enough they turn brown and mushy. Don't discard those bananas with the blackened peel—they provide the perfect ingredient for this family favorite—banana cake.

Cream:

2 c. granulated sugar 1/2 lb. butter

Add:

6 ripe mashed bananas 4 well blended eggs

Sift:

2 1/2 c. cake flour (regular flour, not self rising)

- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp baking soda

Blend wet and dry ingredients. Do not overbeat. Bake at 350 degrees for 60 minutes.

For something a little more decadent, thrown in some chocolate chips or your favorite chopped nuts, or drizzle with melted chocolate.

If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to submit to the neighborhood, or perhaps you've been searching for one you've lost — send your recipe or request to llprill@alltel.net.

How to contact your Board of Directors

The Homeowners Association has a new address. All forms and documents will be corrected accordingly. Please make sure to send any new correspondence to the below address.

Longs Pond Homeowners Association P.O. Box 84565 Lexington, SC 29073

Lindsey Sturkie -- President president@longspond.org

Patrick Hedgepath -- Secretary secretary@longspond.org

Chad Keller -- Vice President vicepresident@longspond.org

Jane Sufka -- Treasurer treasurer@longspond.org

Randall Mungo -- Director director1@longspond.org



Please remember

The speed limit through our neighborhood is 25 mph. Please be watchful of your friends and neighbors as they take a stroll or jog. We have lots of children and family pets who don't stop to look both ways, so keep your eyes open and your speed down.

Guidelines of the Quarter

One of the unpleasant but necessary tasks that the Board has to deal with is covenant and guidelines violations. Some of the violations are simply due to lack of knowledge and a few are blatant disregard and challenges to the covenants. Considering the size of our neighborhood we have had to send out relatively few notices. For this we are indeed grateful. It shows a great sense of mutual respect for your neighbors and respect for the guiding rules of our HOA.

If you have ever had the misfortune of getting a notice of violation you are aware that the language is pointed and plain. This is by design. The notice should leave no doubt as to the problem and the remedies. A property management company developed the original letters. We have edited them very little and we tailor them for the specific address and violation. The notice also includes pertinent paragraphs and/or sections of the covenant, bylaw, or regulation. A few bad apples can spoil the whole bunch. Or in this case cars blocking road ways, messy yards, or crumbling mailboxes can spoil the look and value of the whole neighborhood. Turn a critical eye toward your own property. Are you blocking the road way? Are you creating a hazard for other motorist or pedestrians? Is your yard an eyesore? Is your mailbox mismatched, falling apart, or out of character? Following, you will find excerpts from our governing documents that state what the expectations are. If you are not in harmony with these guidelines we urge you to take corrective action to come into compliance. You can find the Covenants, Architectural Guidelines, and Regulations in their entirety on-line at LongsPond.org.

<u>VEHICLES AND PARKING</u> <u>INOPERATIVE AND UNLICENSED VEHICLES, AUTOMO-</u> TIVE REPAIRS

No inoperative or unlicensed vehicles may be parked on a lot except in a garage. No auto maintenance or repairs of a commercial nature shall be allowed (defined as maintenance or repairs other than the lot owner's vehicle, or maintenance or repairs on any vehicle, including the lot owner's vehicle, of a nature other than minor maintenance or repairs). Minor maintenance and repairs shall include activities such as oil changes, belt replacement, or general cleaning that do not make the vehicle inoperative for more than eight (8) hours or that in no way create excessive noise or draw undue attention to the activity. No vehicles of any type without mufflers shall be allowed on premises.

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

No commercial vehicles, motorcycles, boats or boat trailers, "jet skis", personal water craft or other watercraft, utility trailers, campers, mobile homes, tractors, buses, farm equipment, recreational vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, go-carts, minibikes, dirt bikes, scooters, golf carts, other towed vehicles, vehicles on blocks, unlicensed vehicles, or similar vehicles (collectively vehicles) may be placed or parked on any street within the community or on any paved or non-paved area of a Lot or adjacent Lot, unless such vehicle is parked inside a totally enclosed Structure or screened/fenced area specifically approved for that purpose. Service and delivery vehicles may be parked in the Properties during daylight hours for such periods of time as are reasonably necessary to provide service or to make a delivery within the Properties.

PASSENGER VEHICLES

Subject to the conditions set out in the Regulations, no passenger vehicle may be parked on any portion of a Lot, specifically landscaped areas, other than paved areas designed for that purpose. All passenger vehicles may be parked in garages or on driveways, when the number of vehicles or their type or condition is not detrimental to the good of the community or its residents.

Parking of any passenger vehicle on the street is strictly prohibited when there is available space in the driveway or garage (use of the garage as a general storage area does not eliminate it from being an "available" parking location). Where all available driveway and garage spaces are utilized by other vehicles, parking of a passenger vehicle of a lot owner on the street shall not be allowed if it is frequent, habitual, or continuous. Parking of a passenger vehicle of a lot owner or of the temporary guest of a lot owner on the street shall only be allowed if it is temporary in nature, less than twelve (12) hours, and in a manner or location that is not a nuisance to any other lot owners, unsafe, or hazardous to traffic or to persons within the community.

Where all available driveway and garage spaces are utilized by other vehicles, parking of a passenger vehicle of a guest of a lot owner that is actually residing in the home of that lot owner overnight or for a limited period of time (no more than

Guidelines of the Quarter

seven (7) days) is permitted as long as the manner or location is not a nuisance to other lot owners, unsafe, or hazardous to traffic or to persons within the community. The parking of the vehicle of the guest of a lot owner who is residing in the home of that lot owner overnight or for a longer period shall be permitted as long as the vehicle is not parked on the street for more than twelve (12) hours in any twenty-four (48) hour period or, based upon special circumstances, only if approved by the BOD or the ARC for longer periods.

An example of parking that would constitute a nuisance to other lot owners would include, but not be limited to, blocking or impeding the use of a driveway by another homeowner. Examples of parking in a manner that is unsafe or hazardous shall include, but not be limited to, parking in a manner or location that: interferes with appropriate site-distance for the roadway, is on a hill where visibility is limited, is on a curve where visibility is limited, is near an entrance or intersection, or is near common areas where children might be playing or where other persons might collect on a frequent basis.

No curbside parking areas may be created by expanding any portion of the street pavement without the approval of the BOD and the ARC.

In all cases the Board of Directors of the Association shall, at its sole discretion, determine what constitutes the proper number and type or condition of vehicles that are appropriate for a lot, a commercial or passenger vehicle, commercial maintenance and repairs, a nuisance to other lot owners, improper parking and unsafe or hazardous parking. The Association may tow or otherwise remove any vehicle or passenger vehicle parked in violation of this

cle or passenger vehicle parked in violation of this Regulation after notice to the Lot Owner of the violation, immediately in cases of a hazard or an emergency or upon the continued violation by that Lot Owner or the Lot owner's guest, after the initial notice is provided to that Lot Owner.

UNSIGHTLY OR UNKEMPT CONDITIONS

It shall be the responsibility of each Owner to prevent the development of any unclean, unhealthy, unsightly, or unkempt condition on their Lot, including the failure to properly install or maintain landscaping. The pursuit of hobbies or other activities, which might tend to cause disorderly, unsightly, or unkempt conditions, shall not be pursued or undertaken on any part of the Properties. No Lot or Structure on a Lot within the Properties shall be used, in whole or in part, for the storage of any property or thing that will in the sole opinion of the Developer or the Association, cause such Lot or Structure to appear to be in an unclean or untidy condition or that will be obnoxious to the eye; nor shall any substance, thing, or material be kept that will emit foul or obnoxious odors or that will cause any noise or other condition that will or might disturb the peace, quiet, safety, comfort, or serenity of the occupants of the community or the surrounding property. As set out in the Declaration, all Lot Owners are responsible for the maintenance of landscaping and the removal of debris from their Lot. In addition, whether addressed in the Declaration or not, all Lot Owners shall be

responsible for the maintenance of landscaping in and for the removal of debris from within the road right-of-way abutting their Lot.

All exterior porches, patios and other Structures of this type as well as other locations on the Lot that can be viewed from another Lot or the street are to be kept free and clear of unnecessary debris and clutter. Only outdoor furniture of a type and in a quantity appropriate for use on a Structure of this type shall be used on a permanent basis on the Structures or on the Lot. The authority to determine what type and quantity of furniture is appropriate and what constitutes excessive debris or clutter shall be that of the Developer and of the Association, When Empowered. No appliances shall at any time be stored on an exterior porch, patio, or other like structure.

MAILBOXES

Approval is not required for mailboxes that are exact replacements for the original white mailbox. Any other color or structure change must be approved and must be in a style that compliments the home and beautifies the neighborhood. Homeowners may contact the Architectural Review Committee at: ARC, P.O. Box 84565, Lexington, SC, 29073 or arc@longspond.org for information in locating an exact replacement mailbox.

GUNS, WEAPONS AND NOISEMAKERS

The discharge of firearms on the Properties is prohibited. The term "firearms" includes without limitation devices that make excessive noise or that eject a projectile a distance of more than (15) fifteen feet, "B-B" guns, paintball guns, pellet guns, slingshots, firecrackers and firearms of all types (regardless of size) or any comparable weapons or noise-makers. The Board may impose fines and exercise other enforcement remedies as set forth in this Declaration. Not-withstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, in the Declaration or in the By-Laws, the Association shall not be obligated to take action to enforce the Regulation.

Long's Pond Web Site News

Our first December HOA Christmas party was a great success. We have posted photos of the gathering on the longspond.org site for all to view. We have also posted a photo of the winners of the Christmas Decorations contest on the web site. There is still information on the homepage on how to help the Jones family recover from the house fire they suffered in December so please take advantage of this information while it is still posted

Thanks,

Patrick J. Hedgepath



Receive Your Newsletter by Email!

The Homeowners Association would like to offer some new services to the members. These services will be delivered by e-mail and should make communication easier as well as save us all a little money. If anyone is interested in receiving one or all of these services let Chad Keller know. Also, let us know if you have any other ideas. These services are listed below:

Electronic Newsletters
Electronic Notifications\Reminders of
- Meetings - Website updates

Chad Keller vicepresident@longspond.org

Events Around Town

Jan.- Feb. 2008

FREE FRIDAYS - Free admission to Riverbanks Zoo & Botanical Gardens

January 18, 2008

CONCERT at Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church -- Natalie Grant at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 each.

February 1-10, 2008

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS at Village Square Theatre. Brighton Beach Memoirs is a portrait of the writer as a Brooklyn teenager in 1937 living with his family in crowded, lower middle class circumstances. For ticket information, visit www.villagesquaretheatre.com.

February 15, 2008

Columbia Community Concert Band- free concert, 7:30pm. Union United Methodist Church, Irmo

March 8, 2008

BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT ON LAKE MURRAY - Call Lake Murray Tourism at (800) 951-4008

March 15-16, 2008

CONCERT at Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church -- "Love Flowing Down- The Music of the Cross" featuring Lordsong from Spartanburg, SC. Free admission.

March. 18, 2008

FOURTH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW - sponsored by the Junior Women's Club of Lexington. This event will benefit Samaritan's Well, Lexington's only women's shelter for abused, battered and homeless women, and other local women's and children's charities. Please call Melisa McLeod (803) 629-2222 for additional information.

March 20, 2008

A TASTE OF LAKE MURRAY - Enjoy an evening of local food from area restaurants while bidding on silent and live auction items, stopping only long enough to dance to live entertainment by The Showmen. Attendees will have a chance to walk away with cash prizes and more. Designed as a "Fireworks Fundraiser," this event is an opportunity for our regional communities to support the spectacular 4th of July Celebration on Lake Murray. Call (803) 781-5940 for ticket prices and additional information.