

# Long's Pond ESTATES

Homeowners Association Newsletter

[www.longspond.org](http://www.longspond.org)

July 2012

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

There hasn't been a lot of activity related to the Board functions this quarter. However, we are approaching the time of our annual meeting in September, where we elect directors. In support of this election, we need to create a nominating committee. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee and/or serving as a director, please contact me, the Board, and/or Management. The details of the process are located in the BY-LAWS OF LONGS POND ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION document located on the website, <http://www.longspond.org/>.

We will be electing two directors at the annual meeting. I have had some difficulty finding volunteers to fill the current Board vacancy and am concerned that we will not have enough people to fill the positions adequately. It will be a great benefit to have some new volunteers, so please consider participating in the HOA.

Matt Bullard  
President – Longs Pond HOA  
2011-2012



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

**Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 7:30 PM**  
**Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at 7:30 PM**

## ANNUAL MEETING:

**Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 7 PM**

## COVENANTS AND ARC GUIDELINES

Homeowner participation in the ARC process has been very successful this quarter. We have seen numerous applications for ARC review. We have noticed that some applications are missing some significant detail that does not allow for the committee to make an accurate assessment of the modifications desired by the homeowner. However, follow-ups regarding the details have provided the additional detail needed to make a determination on approval. With that said, I would like to remind anyone filling out an ARC application to please be sure to provide enough detail in the initial application, such as color, location, height, style, etc. such that the committee can properly evaluate the changes and ensure we keep the neighborhood changes as consistent as possible.

Matt Bullard  
[arc@longspond.org](mailto:arc@longspond.org)

## CRIME WATCH

Fortunately, I have had no incidences reported for last quarter. Unfortunately, however, it may be because there has been no communication regarding the crime watch. There were very few responses to the last newsletter's request to send an e-mail for joining the crime watch e-mail distribution. As a result, I have not continued the e-mail system I used for years to notify homeowners of crime related activity. I am looking for someone to take over the crime watch activities in the hopes that he/she can devote more time to getting something started again. If

anyone is interested please contact me at your convenience.

Matt Bullard  
[crimewatch@longspond.org](mailto:crimewatch@longspond.org)

### YARD OF THE MONTH

Even with the relentless heat, many of our homeowners have taken the time to combat the conditions successfully and still keep their lawns looking well maintained and attractive. On behalf of the community – we say thanks. However, I'm sure we all have noticed some issues with keeping the grass maintained due to the extra hot and dry conditions. Please be sure to do your part to ensure our homes provide an attractive appearance for the good of the community and value of our homes. Weeding and grass maintenance are a significant part of the overall appearance our community.

Jenny Bullard  
[decorations@longspond.org](mailto:decorations@longspond.org)

### YARD SALE UPDATE

The semi-annual Longs Pond Estates' yard sale was held in May. I would like to say thank you to all of the homeowners that participated in making this a huge success. The weather was wonderful. The neighborhood was busy with people looking for bargains.

And there were plenty to be found. Items such as plants, furniture, clothing, sporting equipment, household items, outdoor furniture, exercise equipment, and bicycles were plentiful. There was even a lemonade stand!

Start now putting items aside for the fall garage sale.

Laura Murray  
Secretary – Longs Pond HOA  
2011-2012

### IDENTITY THEFT

Most – but not all – identity theft now occurs electronically. But your identity can still be easily

scored by thieves who make use of what you toss in your waste basket, too.

Trash facilities and recycling centers can be gold mines of personal information for enterprising dumpster divers. That is, unless you shred documents that contain identifying information—charge receipts, credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, canceled checks and bank statements and even expired charge cards.

Beware also of those bothersome credit offers you get in the mail and toss unopened into the trash—particularly the pre-approved variety. Clever scammers complete these blank applications, obtain a credit card in your name, charge it to the limit and close the account before you receive the first billing statement. To protect yourself, all you have to do is tear the unopened envelop in half once or twice before tossing it in the waste basket.

Better yet, you can eliminate these prescreened credit offers from your mailbox by calling 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688) to opt out. You'll be asked to provide your Social Security number so the consumer reporting companies can match you with your file.

Also, deposit your outgoing mail containing personally identifying information in post office collection boxes or at your local post office, rather than in an unsecured mailbox. Promptly remove mail from your mailbox. If you're planning to be away from home and can't pick up your mail, contact the U.S. Postal Service at 1-800-275-8777 or online at [www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov) to request a vacation hold. The Postal Service will hold your mail at your local post office until you can pick it up or are home to receive it.

South Carolina is one of the only states to enact legislation that allows all consumers to place or lift a security freeze on their credit file – at no cost – so no one can look at your file without your consent. To apply for a freeze, consumers can call, go online or send a written request to each of the three major credit bureaus.

That means a scammer trying to open a checking account or credit card in someone's name won't be able to because the creditor can't access the consumer's credit file. A consumer who wants to apply for credit can unlock the account using a personal identification number.

According to AARP South Carolina spokesman Patrick Cobb, "South Carolina's best kept secret is that the state has one of the strongest identity theft laws in the country".

The security freeze is a good tool for anyone who has been a victim of fraud or ID theft or who is concerned about becoming a victim. It also serves as extra security for someone who has no intention of applying for credit in the near future.

The Federal Trade Commission has more information on identity theft and prevention tips at [www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft).

## CONSERVATION – TIPS FOR REDUCING WASTE

Being careful about what you buy, consume, and throw away may not seem all that exciting even for the most committed environmental steward. But efficient daily practices and a little old fashioned common sense are good for the environment and your bottom line.

Use this checklist to see how many waste management and recycling practices you've implemented. Then make a plan of action to expand your efforts.

- Make waste reduction a priority in your home.
- Evaluate the waste you generate to identify and reduce your greatest sources of waste.
- Measure the volume or weight of the garbage you generate and set measurable reduction targets.
- Reject wasteful consumption by carefully considering what you need and buying products that last.
- Purchase products with minimal packaging or packaging that can be recycled, or buy in bulk.
- Use cloth napkins, cloth lunch bags, sponges/dish rags, reusable plates, and reusable coffee filters instead of paper alternatives.
- Repair or donate older or unwanted equipment and household goods to local charitable groups, rather than dispose of them.
- Purchase durable furniture and equipment or products made of recycled material to reduce waste from inferior products.
- Purchase recycled paper products, such as office paper, bathroom tissue, etc.

- Set up an area to collect recyclable of paper, glass, cardboard, aluminum, tin, and plastic.
- Compost outdoor wastes such as grass clippings, leaves, and kitchen waste (no meat or onions).

## ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATION

### Calling all Homeowners

All meetings of the association board are open meetings. Residents are encouraged to observe meetings and read approved minutes. Residents who wish to address the board are welcome to do so during the homeowner forum conducted at the beginning of each business meeting.

Here are few tips for participating:

**1. Put it in writing.** You will get the best response if you put your question or opinions in writing prior to the meeting. This isn't mandatory, but it helps you and the board. Some issues may require a little research by the manager. Also, the board can serve you better if members have time to consider your concern.

**2. Call ahead.** As a courtesy, the association asks that you phone and let the manager know that you wish to address the board. This also allows us to notify you if a meeting is cancelled for any reason.

**3. Plan your remarks to last no longer than five minutes.** Board members enjoy visiting with residents; however, the meeting agenda is always very full, and the five-minute limit ensures that all business gets conducted. This doesn't mean big issues can't be presented. If your concern requires more time, please summarize it in five minutes, and the board will add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

**4. Don't expect an immediate response.** Board members don't act independently. All issues require discussion and sometimes a vote. Sometimes an immediate answer is possible, but it's just as likely that you won't get a response until after the meeting.

**5. If you need information, call the manager.** The purpose of the Homeowner Forum is for residents to share opinions and concerns with the board. Residents seeking general information (like a status report on a project or the board's position

on an issue) can get a more immediate answer from the manager.

**TRIVIA CORNER**

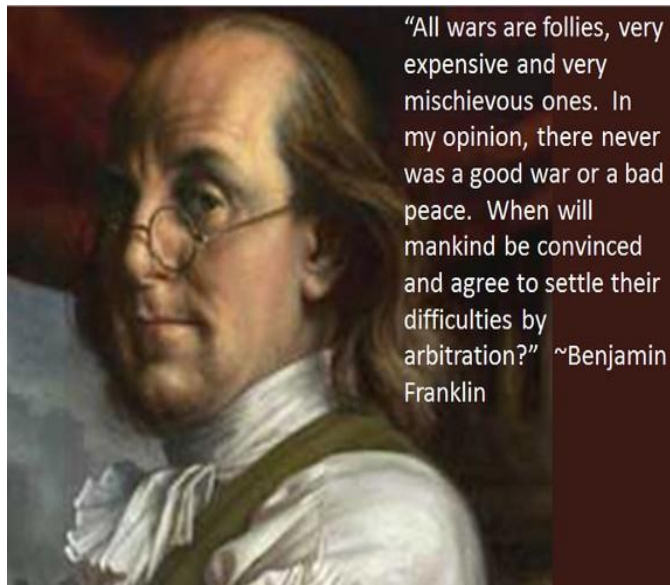
Buttermilk does not contain butter. It is a by-product of the butter-making process and contains less fat than whole milk.

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Horseshoe crabs are not crabs. They are survivors of a species that became extinct 175 million years ago. Their closest modern relatives are scorpions and spiders. (And personally, I think they're ugly little things!! Yuck!!!)



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Benjamin Franklin didn't discover electricity and the quickest way to disprove that is the fact that it already had a name – *electricity*, which comes from the Greek word *electron*, which means "amber." (The Greeks discovered they could

generate static electricity by rubbing amber with fur.) What Franklin was trying to prove in his 1752 experiment was the electrical nature of lightning – that lightning was, in fact, electricity. It is true that Franklin flew a kite with a key tied to the string – but the kite was not struck by lightning. If it had been, Franklin might have become a has-Ben. The spark that leapt from the key to Franklin's knuckle was caused by the flow of electrons that exists at all times between the ground and the sky, but during a thunderstorm, the electrons are more active. Had Benjamin Franklin, the inventor of bifocal glasses, actually been struck by lightning, he would have made a real spectacle of himself.

*Stupid History (Tales of Stupidity, Strangeness and Mythconceptions Throughout the Ages © 2007*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

July 2-30

*The Princess & The Pea*

Join a vagabond band of actors as they present the Hans Christian Andersen story like you've never seen before with physical humor and witty banter that breathes new life and energy into this classic tale.

Columbia Children's Theatre  
www.columbiachildrenstheatre.com

691.4548

\$8.00

11 am Thursday - Saturday

July 9 – August 27

*All Local Farmers Market*

Come by for the season's best produce, meat, dairy, flowers and baked items from all local producers.

Olympia Neighborhood

[www.stateplate.com](http://www.stateplate.com)

269.3241

Saturday's only

8 am – Noon

July 30

*Cat Show - The International Cat Association*

Over 200 cats from the giant Maine Coon to the wild looking Bengal and even the naked Spynx. Come meet Racer the #1 Ocicat alter the world. Kittins for sale. Carolina Cats Rescue will be in

attendance. Pet related vendors. A family fun event!

Double Tree Hotel  
754.9975  
\$6.00  
10 am – 4 pm

August 10<sup>th</sup>

*Sesquicentennial State Park Movie*  
Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and snacks and enjoy a family movie in the park. Movies are free with park admission (\$2 adults; \$1.25 SC seniors; age 15 & younger free). Movies start at dark at the ball field in the main picnic area. Showing on August 10<sup>th</sup> – *Yogi Bear*. Popcorn & drinks will be sold, proceeds benefit Friends of Sesqui.

[www.southcarolinaparks.com/sesqui/introductions.aspx](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/sesqui/introductions.aspx)

788.2706  
9564 Two Notch Road  
Columbia, SC  
8:30 pm – 10:30 pm

August 13

*Moonlight Paddle*  
What better way to see the full moon. Take a paddle on the Congaree River. Placid stretches of river alternate with a few easy rapids and views of the town and bridges. Don't miss this unique and romantic venture.

Get Your Gear On  
[www.getyourgearon.com](http://www.getyourgearon.com)  
799.0999  
7:30 pm

August 20

*Heartland Angler Tournament*

Lake Murray  
Big Man's Marina  
[www.heartlandanglers.com](http://www.heartlandanglers.com)  
507.4700  
Prices vary  
Safelight – 3 pm

***Don't forget these other great options for summer fun...***

*Columbia Blowfish*

Columbia's own baseball team plays at Capital City Stadium (301 S. Assembly Street). Adult general admission is \$6.00; kids 12 & under, seniors and military pay \$5.00. For more information on their schedule, go to [www.blowfishbaseball.com](http://www.blowfishbaseball.com).

*Riverbanks Zoo and Garden*

Lots to do at the Zoo! Besides the regular fun, there are camps for the kids and ZOOvie Nights on Friday nights. Admission to ZOOvie Nights is \$3.00 for members, \$5.00 for the general public; bring your lawn chairs for *Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa* on July 27. Gates open at 7:00 pm and the movie starts at dusk.

[www.riverbanks.org](http://www.riverbanks.org)

*South Carolina State Museum*

Escape the heat – visit one of the many great exhibits at the Museum: Titanic – The Artifact Exhibition will be here through September 3. For more information on exhibits, hours of operation & tickets:

[www.museum.state.sc.us](http://www.museum.state.sc.us)

*EdVenture Children's Museum*

Check out Blooming Butterflies, Moneyville, or one of the other indoor exhibits. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, get in for \$1.00. For information about EdVenture, times of operation, admission and more, go to:

[www.edventure.org](http://www.edventure.org)