

Long's Pond ESTATES

Homeowners Association Newsletter

www.longspnd.org

May 2009

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wanted to take this time to talk about the current Board of Director's belief as to how the Homeowners Association (HOA) should be run. We simply believe that we are here to maintain all of our property values and to ensure all members of the HOA have a voice while keeping all lines of communication open between the Board and the HOA members.

The biggest goal of any HOA is to maintain the value of the homes within the HOA community. This can only be done if all the members follow the Covenants and Architectural Guidelines that were agreed upon at the time our homes were purchased. The Board and the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) have the unfortunate task of enforcing these rules. This is not a task that either enjoys. The simplest way for this to run smoothly is that all members apply for approval before building any structure in their yards. If this procedure is followed all structures should meet the guidelines and there would be no need for three fourths of the violation letters sent out. An added benefit of following this procedure would be that you don't have to worry about this administration or any future administration sending you a violation letter. At least if they do, you have the documentation to show that it was approved.

The Long's Pond Estates Covenants are a very common document used by most developers and were written with the developers interest in mind, not the members. The Board does not agree with some of the policies in our Covenants. The way our Covenants are written the Board can make any decision they see fit as long as there is a majority vote of the Board members. Our Covenant also requires only one annual meeting of the members. This annual meeting is where we elect new Board members. In short, our Covenants do not require the Board to seek the opinion of any member and only require the Board to communicate with the members once a year. The current Board of Director's does not believe this is the way our HOA should be run. We strongly believe that we are acting as the voice for every member of the HOA. For this reason, we have four newsletters and four meetings of the members every year.

The newsletters, in the past, seem to have been just another channel to tell the members what they should be doing instead of being a two way communication.

Jeannette Munnett has volunteered to Chair the Newsletter Committee with the help of Betty Fortin and has some great ideas to get the members more involved. If you have any ideas for the newsletter or would like to help, please let us know.

The quarterly meetings are held so that the Board can communicate to the members what has transpired since the

last meeting and to get the members opinions on new business. The Board believes that no decision should be made without first asking the members. 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 the way the majority of the members at the meeting voted.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone that has taken an active interest in our HOA. This includes everyone that has ever volunteered to be on the Board, volunteered to be on any committee or attended any of the meetings of the members. The Board would love to see all one hundred and fifty members at the next meeting.

Chad Keller
LPHOA President

Memorial Day



Memorial Day originated in 1868, when Union General John A. Logan designated a day in which the graves of Civil War soldiers would be decorated. Known as Decoration Day, the holiday was changed to Memorial Day within twenty years,

becoming a holiday dedicated to the memory of all war dead. It became a federal holiday in 1971, and is now observed on the last Monday in May. This year Memorial Day will be observed on May 25th.

The National Moment of Remembrance

The idea for the Moment was born when children touring the Nation's Capital were asked by the Commission's Director what Memorial Day means. They responded, "That's the day the pool opens." It was created as an act of national unity in which all Americans, either alone or with family and friends, honor those who died for our freedom. It takes place every year on Memorial Day at 3 p.m. local time.

For more information go to www.remember.gov.

And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free, and I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me and I'll proudly stand next to him to defend her still today, 'cuz there ain't no doubt I love this land, god bless the USA.

-Lee Greenwood

GARAGE SALE/COOKOUT

Wow, what a beautiful day it was for the annual garage sale and cookout. It was a lot better than last year. It was so hot last year that I didn't need to fire up the cooker for the hot dogs – just slapped them on the grill, closed the lid and they were done in about 20 minutes. Just kidding, but boy it was hot.

When we first started that morning, it was pretty slow and I was beginning to worry. But things picked up and bargains were to be found. My daughter and I made our rounds that morning searching for the perfect bargain, I found one, but someone beat me to the punch by about 20 seconds. Man, I really wanted that golf bag too. We counted 21 homes participating in the sale, which is an increase from last year. Hopefully, next year will be even bigger.

Thanks to those that showed up for the cookout. We cooked 80 hotdogs and only had a few left over. Some of us at the bottom of the hill got to meet some of you at the top of the hill and those in between. A few people even tried their hand at the corn-hole game. Hopefully next year we can do a little more for the kids at the cookout.

Randall Mungo

Yard of the Month Committee

Hello Residents of Longs Pond Estates:

We, Leslie Shipp and Jenny Bullard, are your new Yard of the Month Committee members and would like to introduce ourselves. We both live on Knotts Circle and are thrilled to volunteer to be a part of our community. We hope to encourage all of our homeowners to take pride in your yards because that is the first impression visitors get when driving through our neighborhood.

Our neighborhood is one of the nicest on our side of town and the beautification of our yards is a direct reflection on the neighborhood as a whole. We hope you will agree. We are looking forward to serving you well in our new position and welcome any comments or suggestions on how to make our neighborhood a more beautiful place.

Congratulations to our April YOTM winner: Steve and Kathy Vardas at 1341 Knotts Haven Loop.

We have listed what we believe to be good judging indicators for our YOTM.

- Lawn does not have to be weed-free, but does need to be mowed and be free of bald patches.
- Yard must have a "polished look" with clean edges (i.e. pruned, edged, mulched, etc...)

- Home/yard must comply with all HOA rules (i.e., mailbox)
- Owner must be up-to-date and have no infractions and/or issues pending with the HOA
- Judging will be done on the LAST Saturday or Sunday of each Month – for the current month
- Special recognition will be given for 4th of July (Jul), Easter (March/April) Halloween (Oct), Veteran's Day (Nov) and Christmas (Dec)
- 2009 Dates for judging will be: May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug 29, Sep 26, Oct 31, Nov 28, Dec 19
- YOTM will be chosen only once per-year / per-yard. No one can win twice in a row or twice in a calendar year.

\$25 Lowes gift card goes to the winner

Let's all show how proud we are to live in such a beautiful neighborhood. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged.

Leslie and Jenny

Neighborly Advice



I have noticed for some time that several houses have black streaks on the roof. These black streaks are NOT soot - it is caused by a mold and if not removed will ruin the roof.

On a fix-it radio show someone called about a similar problem and the "expert" highly recommended a product called *Roof Reviver*. This information just might save someone from having to replace their roof! Below is the blurb about this product.

Did you know that moss, algae, fungus and air pollution are destroying your roof? Black and green streaking on your shingles is a sure sign your home has been invaded! Roof Reviver(TM) Roof Cleaner is specially designed to prevent and remove these destructive elements before they do permanent damage. Roof Reviver(TM) is chlorine bleach free and pleasant to work with. Unlike harsh bleach products, this bio-degradable formula is safe for children, pets, and landscaping. The 4 pound size makes 30 gallons of cleaner and treats up to 2200 sq. ft. of roof. "Don't let a good roof go bad, try Roof Reviver(TM) instead".

On the web there is a video on how to use the product. That site is roofreviver.com.

For everyone's information,
Betty Fortin

CRIME WATCH AND ARC COMMITTEES

The board would like to thank all the people who signed up for these committees at our open meeting on March 10. The board forwarded each list to a contact person. Listed below is the contact person, with home address, e-mail and phone number. If you have not been contacted, please get in touch with the contact person for the group which you are interested in serving on. Again, thank you for volunteering!!!!!!!

CRIME WATCH: Matt Bullard 326 Knotts Circle
336-6930 MHB1234@windstream.net

ARC: Johnny Jones 1525 Knotts Haven Trail
996-1163 j052594@aol.com

Welcoming Committee News

We'd like to welcome the following people to the neighborhood:

Michael and Lauren Harris – 401 Knotts Court
Joseph & Christine Lehner – 336 Knotts Circle

New Births:

Congratulations to Jason and Jessica White on the birth of their daughter Falyn Reese White on February 13, 2009. They reside at 1309 Knotts Haven Loop.

Thanks to Michelle Herman for volunteering to help on the welcoming committee!

If you know of someone who has just moved in or has had an addition to their family, please get that information to the Welcoming Committee.

Debbie Kessel
Sheryl Wood and
Michelle Herman
Welcoming Committee

Patrick Robertson

Please keep the Robertson family who live at 360 Knotts Circle in your prayers. As you will recall, their son Patrick, who attends White Knoll High School, suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm on March 3 requiring surgical repair. On April 9, Patrick was moved to Shepard Center in Atlanta for further rehabilitation. An update from the family, states that Patrick has eaten a few things, and walks with assistance.

We were notified that an account has been set up for the family to assist with Patrick's medical bills at Safe Credit Union. The HOA has given a donation to the family in Patrick's name. If anyone else would like to contribute, you can contact Safe Credit Union and identify Patrick Robertson and the credit union can assist you with your donation.

Current update on Patrick: We just got in touch with Dale, Patrick's dad, and he said that Patrick has made great strides while in therapy. He's currently eating on his own, been eating a good breakfast but his favorite is pudding and soft-batch cookies. Before he went to Atlanta, he was on a feeding tube 24/7, but now he's using it only about 8 hours per day. Tammy,

Patrick's mother, called home today and Patrick told his dad that he walked on his own today, but actually had a little assistance from the therapist. Dale was very excited about that, both talking and walking.

Dale said that the band is holding a barbeque take-out for Patrick on Saturday, May 23rd at White Knoll High School, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm. Take-out plates are \$10 each and you can call Dale for tickets, 808-3332.

Possible Classified Section

We would like to be able to offer a classified section in the newsletter where people could advertise for help or services. Do you have a teenager who wants to baby-sit? Maybe do some pet sitting? Or would even like doing yard work? It doesn't have to be a teenager. There are many people in the neighborhood that could use your help. If you would be interested in being listed in the newsletter classified section, please contact me at (803) 808-7559 or by email at newsletter@longspond.org.

It also wouldn't hurt anyone to do a favor for a neighbor. Some people like to barter for services but in lieu of that, just doing favors for each other could help out someone who is ill, out of work, or laid up. Let me know if you have suggestions for this section as it is a work in progress.

Jeannette Munnett

Note from the Webmaster

The new username to login to read the minutes is ***** and the new password is ***** Homeowners should also take the time to register on the management company web site <https://wdm.cincweb.com> as this will allow homeowners to see their account history and to pay their assessments online. More information will be added to this website as the website committee gets time to update this site.

Thanks,

Patrick J. Hedgepath

Food for Thought

Here are some items that you might think about:

- Do you pick up after your pet when out walking? Be courteous to your neighbors and bring a plastic bag on your walk. It only takes a minute to pick up after your pet.
- Have you looked at your mailbox recently? If it belonged to someone else, would you have a comment? This reflects on you.
- How does your yard compare to your neighbors? Are you proud of it? Can't take care of the yard yourself? Hire a neighborhood teenager to help you.
- Have any suggestions on how to make our community better? Don't keep your ideas to yourself;

we need all the help we can get. This is OUR community.

Community Activities

June 15 – 19, 2009

4H2O Pontoon Classroom on Lake Murray from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily. The class is limited to 20 young people between the ages of 10 – 12. The cost is \$100 per person for the week. Campers will bring their own lunches. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Swimming breaks will be offered each day. For information, call the extension service at (803) 359-8515 and dial 0 or 111 and ask for receptionist Linda Kelly.

JUNE-AUGUST, 2009

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - Live entertainment comes to Finlay Park every Saturday evening. Performances begin at 7 p.m. and are free to the public. Contact: Columbia Action Council, 722 Blanding Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. Phone: (803) 343-8750.

JULY 4, 2009

LEXINGTON COUNTY PEACH FESTIVAL - This Lexington County Peach Festival is a great way to recognize the Lexington County Peach, the peach industry and the birthday of our nation. Held in Gilbert. For more information call (803) 892-5207.

Treasurer's Report

The approved and up-to-date budget is listed on the Longs Pond website under the documentation section. This way we will be able to update the budget more frequently and you can see where we stand on a more current situation.

At the last meeting a proposed budget was presented to the members present and several changes were made. The major change was not to place a well and sprinkler system on the community lot, which saves at least \$7,000.00. However, we project a deficit of \$3,182.00 for the year. With this in mind, we're trying to curtail the spending to reduce the deficit as much as possible.

Currently 65 homeowners have paid their dues this year. I would like to encourage everyone to pay their dues before they incur any late fees. If for some reason, you're having financial problems and need extra time, please contact the HOA Board and we will be glad to work something out with you.

Randall Mungo, Treasurer

Tips for Saving Water

Water conservation is an important issue—and not just because we want to be environmentally responsible. Here's how you can help:

Kitchen Aid

Large appliances—washing machines and dishwashers—consume the most water, so they are important places to start any water-conservation efforts.

- Set the water level on your washing machine to match the size of your load. Try to avoid doing frequent small loads;

whenever possible, run the machine only when you have a full load.

- You don't need to rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher! No, really. Hand rinsing dishes under the faucet uses 15-18 gallons of water per load. If your dishwasher has a pre-rinse cycle, try using it instead of hand rinsing. If a dish or two isn't completely clean after the dishwasher cycle, finish the job by hand.

- Like the washing machine, only run the dishwasher when it's full. If you have only a few dishes, wash them by hand in a sink or basin—not under a running faucet. Use a second basin or dishpan for rinsing, or spray rinse all the soapy dishes at once.

Splish-Splash—Conserving in the Bath

After these major appliances, the bathroom offers the next biggest opportunity to save water.

- Make sure your toilets are all working efficiently. According to the American Water Works Association, the average American home loses 14 percent of all water used to leaks.

- Keep your showers as brief as possible or turn the water off while shaving or scrubbing in the stall. Consider installing water-saver showerheads and faucets.

- When taking a bath, close the drain while the water warms up then adjust the temperature. Monitor the tub as it fills, and turn the water off at the half-way mark.

Running Hot and Cold

- There's nothing as refreshing as a cold drink of water, but don't let the faucet run to get it. Chill a container of water in the refrigerator instead.

- Avoid running hot tap water over frozen food to defrost it; put it in the refrigerator the night before.

- Rethink any tasks you usually perform under running water—like washing vegetables or brushing your teeth. (A gallon of water a minute flows through a tap that's only half open.) Use a dishpan or bowl of water instead of letting the tap run. Then pour the water from the bowl on your house plants.

“Used” Water

Before pouring that half-filled glass of water down the sink, ask yourself where it could be put to good use? How about pouring it in the dog's bowl? And the condensate from the dehumidifier is suitable for watering plants. Other sources of “used” water are suitable for reuse—it just takes a little imagination and a change in routine. Invest in a rain barrel and collect rain water to water your outdoor plants or vegetable garden.

Water conservation begins with each of us. If each resident makes a few simple adjustments in household routine, we can conserve thousands of gallons of water and save thousands of dollars each year.





Homeowners Association Junior Section

www.longspond.org

May 2009

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

This is another section under construction, so to speak. We would like to highlight our students in the community. We are going to be looking for volunteer reporters from each school to write about what is happening. We even want athletes to write about their favorite sport. Are you on a team? Are you in the band? What are you doing? We want to hear.

Here are a few examples of what we're looking for.

Home School News

It is the first week of May and my kids (10th, 8th, 3rd, and preschool) are done with 180 days of required school. People ask me, "How do you do that?" I say, "We start in July when it is sooo hot you can't really do anything else." We take breaks when we want or need to, maybe we take a week for Thanksgiving, three weeks for Christmas, or vacation in September. That is the beauty of home schooling.

No, my kids don't sleep in until 10am or 11am, they are always up doing math when the school bus comes to pick up the neighbor kids and they are usually in the school room when the bus drops them off in the afternoon. You may think how awful to be doing school all day -- that is not the case. There are plenty of breaks during the day to play with their little brother while I work with another child, or piano lessons, voice lessons, home school Spanish class, a THRILL Club meeting (teen community service group), a trip to the library, a museum class, or just taking a longer lunch.

This week my 15 yr. old daughter is doing Teenpact which is a Government/Leadership camp at the Capitol. Are we counting it as part of her Gov't class, you bet!

At the end of the week, we will come together with other Lexington area home school families to celebrate our kids' achievements and completion of yet another school year as we have done for the past ten years. This annual Achievement Night allows the kids to gather with their friends, sign yearbooks, receive awards, applaud those who are graduating, and encourage us parents to continue on in the daily effort to home educate our children!

Jennifer Aurednik

Carolina Springs Middle School

Hello, my name is Victoria Osborne, and I live at 1209 Knotts Haven Loop. I am a seventh grader at Carolina Springs Middle

School. I have been asked to report on what is happening at my school.

We received our final interim grade report on May 5, 2009. Our last day of school is June 5. This year, will be the first time I have to take final exams and they will be on June 3-5.

We will take PASS tests, which replaced the PACT tests on May 12-19. These tests are taken state wide.

I am in honor choir. We had our Spring Concert on May 7. We had our final competition at Carowinds on May 9. Every one had a great time.

Our book fair begins May 25, and our Family Literacy night is May 28. During these two events we can chose books for our summer reading. I am going to buy three books.

I will report again once school resumes August 19.

White Knoll High School

June eighth, my graduation, will probably be one of the most bittersweet days of my life. It will mark the beginning of my responsibilities as a young adult preparing for independence. I will walk, laugh, cry, and receive my high school diploma with my head held high.

For me, high school has had quite a few ups and downs. From the drama to the unforgettable memories, I'd never take any of my experiences back. I've learned how to succeed despite my circumstances and how to deal with others who do not agree. But the most important lesson has been to love myself for who I am. No certain group of friends can make or define me as a person. So in essence, happiness starts within.

As my friends and I go on our separate ways, some to Coastal Carolina and some to Clemson University, I know we will all be okay. We will take the lessons that we have learned in high school and apply them in our college experiences. I am positive that we will all mature into wise and respectable young adults.

Ebony Mingo*

*Ebony has plans to attend Howard University in the fall.

These are examples of what we'd like to showcase in the newsletter. We'll also have school schedules. So please volunteer to be a reporter for our Junior Section of the newsletter. Thanks.