

May 1, 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring 2018

George Duhaime

Greetings to all...

from George Duhaime, interim president. I want to start this newsletter by sincerely thanking Frank Murawski for his unfailing and dedicated service to the Lakes community for the past several years. I will do my best to serve the community with the same dedication and diligence.

To start, I would like to share with you some thoughts about security at the Lakes. Most residents have probably heard talk about installing cameras, security gates and more police patrols. It sounds like we have a serious crime problem. In fact, Horry county rates the Lakes as one of its safest (if not THE safest) communities. The most frequent complaint we have been receiving concerns individuals going into unlocked cars, late at night, stealing loose change.

In order to address the concerns of the residents, I will arrange to have a county police officer come to our next quarterly meeting and provide information about starting a neighborhood watch program and how it can be effective.

As I step into the role of Interim President, I would additionally like to thank all the board members for stepping up and providing their support. I am only as good as the good people that surround me.

Treasurer's Report

by Doug Owens

Accounting & Treasury Activities

We continue to centralize and simplify our POA accounting activities by moving the POA Operating account and opening a Money Market account with the local United Community Bank under the very helpful and watchful eye of our own Lakes resident, Joanne Szucs. The predecessors of these accounts were moved from a local branch of Wells Fargo Bank.

Additionally, as discussed at our last two public meetings, we have hired Wayne E. Fussaro, Certified Public Accountant of Surfside Beach, to do our 2017 income taxes as well as begin an audit of our books for 2017. After his review, Mr. Fussaro will produce what is referred to as an "audit letter" which will outline his findings and any recommendations for changes or additions to our procedures as he may deem necessary. Since this is the first audit done in a while and with income tax season in high gear, this process will probably take well into the 2nd half of the year before results are known. These results will then be made available to the homeowners during one of our regular public meetings.

Web Site Review

Somewhat of a drastic change of subject, I have been asked by the Board to do a thorough review of the expense and functionality of our current web site. This review includes evaluating our ability to refocus or modify our site; the monthly cost to "host" (or manage) our site; the style, design, "usability" or "changeability" of the site by people within the POA.

Currently, our site is "hosted" by Litus to Let thru another vendor. We own the site address (www.theLakes.us) but the physical site itself is owned and operated by Litus' vendor.

The open questions are: 1. Do we want to "own" our own web site or continue to "rent" it as we do today; 2. Do we want the ability (and responsibility) of being able to change items in our web site as we deem necessary and, if so, will members volunteer to do this work; 3. How much will all this cost?

We have had beginning level dialog with Litus and two other web site hosts and designers and will report back to the Board when our review is complete within the next month or so.

HOWEVER....if there is someone in The Lakes community who either owns or works for a web site host/designer and would like to discuss our needs with me, or bid on this activity, **PLEASE** contact me at "DougOwensLakes@Gmail.com" so we can discuss that possibility !! No decisions have been made as of yet, so now is the time to jump in and offer your services to the POA !

Spring is Here!

by Craig Wright

After a longer than normal winter, Spring is finally here. It's great seeing people coming out of hibernation and sprucing up their properties. This is the best time of the year to mulch our gardens, trim our shrubs, treat our lawns and power wash our houses because soon the summer heat will set in. Keeping well maintained homes helps our neighborhood to be desirable and property values strong.

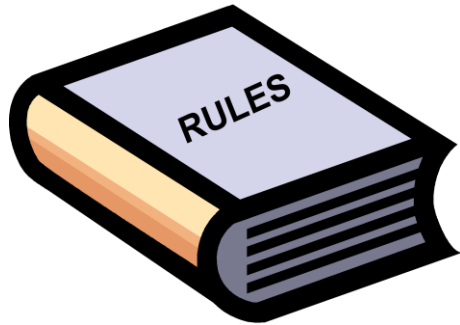
Some members of the Board are looking into solutions to beautify the stretch of road on Waccamaw River Road from Swan Lake Road to the Gazebo. We are in the early stages of considering the planting of flowering and colorful trees along the roadway. We want to make that area more attractive as well as discourage people from scarring the grassy areas with their vehicle tires.

This is also a good time to thank the many volunteers that help us maintain an attractive neighborhood. Rich Wilson, David Lee, Tim Devens and David Fuss regularly pick up trash off our entrance roads. To quote Rich, "Our entrance roads are everyone's front yard" so I am grateful for their service to our community. Most of the litter in our neighborhood is intentionally discarded and some of it comes from trash flying off vehicles heading to the recycling center.

We all play apart in making our neighborhood a pleasant place to live.

The Lakes - Board Members

Interim President: George Duhaime	843-450-3573 geomak12000@yahoo.com
Secretary: Rob Young	843-504-4609 ryoung@coastal.edu
Treasurer: Doug Owens	843-333-2757 dougowenslakes@gmail.com
Member at Large: Greg Rogers	843-458-1318 grgrogers@aol.com
Member at Large: Craig Wright	843-215-2367 cwwright@sc.rr.com
Member at Large: Anita Gadd	803-261-7690 ggandjayda@hotmail.com
Member at Large: Frank Murawski	843-685-8227 fmurawski@sc.rr.com
Ad Hoc Member: George Eber	443-988-8042 georgeeber@sc.rr.com
Ad Hoc Member: Andre Chouinard	860-942-2919 choui17652@yahoo.com
Ad Hoc Member: Bob Tomassetti	843-455-3187 bubbassetti@outlook.com
Ad Hoc Member: Phil Dieser (Director of Safety & Security)	609-820-6322 K9cinco1@yahoo.com



Rules and Regulations

by Greg Rogers

Spring is finally here and the POA would like to remind the residents of a few rules and regulations that we continually seem to have a problem with:

1. Boats and Recreational Vehicles are allowed only 48 hours per month for purposes of cleaning and restocking. They may be stored in your garage if you have enough room. Example: If you bring your boat in on Saturday for 1 hour or 24 hours that is counted as one day. We do not count hours and add them up as some resident would like us to do.
2. Trailers are not allowed to park overnight except within the confines of a garage.
3. Unregistered vehicles that do not have a current registration and license tag are not allowed to sit in your driveway only in enclosed garages.
4. Pets owners must clean up after your pets and the pets need to be on leashes and not allowed to run loose.
5. Trash Containers need to be kept out of sight when not at the street edge for pickup. They should not be left in front of the garage or in visible sight.
6. Decorative 4 x 4 posts covered with vinyl are the only decorations that are allowed at the streets edge in front of your property along with reflectors to see at night. They should be placed 10-12 inches from the edge of the street and should be no taller than 16 inches tall. Example: rocks, fiberglass poles, flamingos, etc. are not excepted as we are trying to keep a uniform presence thru out the Lakes.
7. Lastly, any alteration of driveways or drainage involving the front swales of one's property. If you make any alteration such as adding a pipe, widening the driveway, doing away with the swale in front of your property, you will now have to submit plans to the Architectural Review Board (ARB) before beginning any work and pay a security deposit. The work will need to be inspected before any concrete is ordered and poured. The ARB has a set of guidelines that will need to be followed effective 1/1/2018.



Please Keep Grass Clippings Out of the Lakes

by Rob Young

A consistent theme at several of our recent POA meetings has been residents upset about some Lakes homeowners whose lawn care companies blow grass clippings into the lakes. This is very inconsiderate to your neighbors, because the wind will push those clipping down to one end of the lake where they will become a major headache for the homeowners in that area. In addition, this practice will impact ALL homeowners on the lake, because as that grass breaks down, the increased release of nutrients will serve as fertilizer for algae growth throughout the entire lake.

As we move into summer, we know that excessive algal and freshwater plant growth in our lakes becomes a problem. Our lakes management company does a good job of keeping this in check, but mother nature does what she wants and they can only achieve limited success. You can help out, though, but limiting your addition of nutrients to the lakes. If you live on a lake and have a lawn care company, please do the following:

1. Ask them to be sure to direct all clippings toward the lawn rather than into the lake, taking special care as they cut along the edge of the lake.
2. At least once, take the time to watch them as they cut along the lake in your backyard to make sure they are doing it properly.

Some other tricks that will help include: planting a vegetated buffer along the edge of your lake to help take up nutrients before they enter the lake and reducing your fertilizer use near the lake. Also, if you do put fertilizer on your backyard, please consider stopping well short of the lake edge and also watering it in with a light sprinkle rather than overwatering or waiting for a strong-rain. This will allow the fertilizer to absorb into the soil in place and be taken up by your grass rather than having half of it wash off into the lake with a heavy downpour. You will also get more for your money if most of it stays in place.

If you have any questions or if you would like to report any issues with your lake, please contact Rob Young (ryoung@coastal.edu).



OBSERVE THE LAWS

by Andre Chouinard

Horry County Police monitoring traffic activity in the Lakes will, from now on, issue tickets to all violators who go through stop signs or speed within the community. No more breaks! Everyone who gets stopped, gets a ticket! Failure to stop for a stop sign, is a \$150 fine and 4 points.

When a driver is assessed 12 or more points, the driver's license will automatically be suspended. Certain traffic law violations, such as driving under the influence, require mandatory license suspension under the law and are not under the point system. The length of time your license will be suspended depends on the number of points you've accumulated:

- 12 to 15 points: suspended for three months
- 16 or 17 points: suspended for four months
- 18 or 19 points: suspended for five months
- 20 or more points: suspended for six months

Points for Each Infraction

Violation

Points

Reckless Driving	6 points
Passing Stopped School Bus	6 points
Hit & Run, property damages only	6 points
Driving Too Fast for Conditions or Speeding less than 10mph	2 points
Driving 10-25 mph over the posted speed limit	4 points
Driving 25 mph or more over the posted speed limit	6 points
Disobedience of any traffic control device	4 points
Disobedience to officer directing traffic	4 points
Failure to Yield Right of Way	4 points
Driving on Wrong side of road	4 points
Passing Unlawfully	4 points
Turning Unlawfully	4 points
Driving through or within a safety zone	4 points
Failing to give signal or giving improper signal for stopping, turning	4 points
Shifting lanes without safety precaution	2 points
Improper dangerous parking	2 points
Following too closely	4 points
Failing to dim lights	2 points
Operating with improper lights	2 points
Operating with improper brakes	4 points
Operating a vehicle in unsafe conditions	2 points
Driving in improper lane	2 points
Improper backing	2 points

ACC Approvals

Jim Barrett

January 2018 The following items were approved: Lot 12-62 290 Wateree River Rd Fence Lot U-21 829 Waccamaw River Rd Fence Lot Q-23 541 Saluda River Rd New Home Lot N-12 521 Arcadian Way Fence	February 2018 The following items were approved: Lot S-20 255 Catawba River Rd Fence Lot U-12 2010 Chattooga Ct Pool/Fence
March 2018 The following items were approved: Lot G-20 111 Ashley River Rd Addition/Deck Lot U-04 256 Wateree River Rd Fence	

In order to maintain drainage along the front of properties and to insure new or modifications to driveways/yards do not affect adjacent landowners the following changes have been instituted:

1. Review and approval by the drainage committee of driveway/across yard drain projects is now required along with ACC approval.
2. The property owner shall obtain from a registered land surveyor or engineer, site elevations of the swale or ditch where the driveway/cross yard drain is being constructed/modified. These elevations will be on either side of the driveway and at the ends of each side of the property. These elevations shall be provided as a signed drawing and will be included in the package submitted to the ACC.
3. After forms are constructed and before any concrete is poured in the driveway a drainage committee member must inspect construction and provide approval/disapproval.
4. If a secondary swale (across yard) drainage pipe is to be installed, cleanouts must be installed every 25 feet.
5. Completed projects will be inspected by the ACC and a drainage committee member prior to refund of the compliance deposit.