

December 15, 2018



The Lakes POA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter 2018

George Duhaime

Season's Greetings to one and all! Once again, it has been another very busy year for the Lakes community. We have seen so much change. The construction on the bypass has been completed and the final landscaping and highway signs are almost done as well. The deceleration and acceleration lanes have made entering and exiting our community easier and safer. The new signage at our entrances, along with the maturing landscaping, make the Lakes a very attractive, inviting community in which to live.

As with all communities, there are still challenges and much work to do. Respect our common areas by not littering, respect your neighbors' property by picking up after your animals and/or keeping them on a leash, slowing down and observing the speed limit signs, all things we as a community can help improve. Without a doubt some of these things are also a result of others entering our common areas but keeping the Lakes beautiful starts with each resident.

This is also a time to say "Thank You" to all the board members that volunteer to serve this community giving freely and unselfishly of their time and expertise.

Lastly, I would like to recognize and thank Betty and Gary Youmell for once again donating their time and talent in decorating the gazebo for the holiday season. Great job Betty and Gary!!

As we look to the New Year of 2019, may we all be blessed to enjoy good health and the comforts and happiness of our homes here in the Lakes, surrounded by our families and friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



Speed Limit Change – Frank Murawski

Greetings to all! The Board of Directors has been exploring several ideas to try and curb the continuing problem of speeding and our goal was to try to slow people down with minimal inconvenience to the rest of our law-abiding residents. As you know, some of the options we have addressed in our meetings are increased law enforcement and speed bumps, which is always a hot bed of discussion. When we looked at some things that other communities are doing, one thing that we noticed was that the speed limits in many of the neighborhoods were lower than the posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour in our community. Many of the communities had limits of 15 or 20 miles per hour. While this may not be the solution to our problem, the majority of the Board felt that it might be a step towards slowing the traffic down in the community. The goal is to make our streets safer for our residents.

This idea was originally suggested to us several years ago and again more recently by the Horry County Police, who felt that this would help. We did in fact do this a few years ago on Hatteras River Road and we found that it has succeeded in slowing most of the drivers down. It has also been successful in other communities as well. As such, the Board has voted to decrease the speed limit community-wide to 20 MPH. Again, we are aware that there will always be those that will knowingly violate the laws in the community, but our hope is that most folks will slow down. We will also increase the enforcement of the speed limit as necessary.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Years!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everyone!

- Craig Wright

This is the time of year to be thankful! I want to say a **BIG** "THANK YOU" to all the Lakes residents who volunteered their time for the betterment of our community. We are fortunate to have people in our neighborhood that are willing to serve on our Drainage and Architectural Control Committees. There is no telling what additional problems we would have with water drainage and the appearance of our lakes or what our neighborhood would look like if we didn't have these volunteers looking out for our best interests. We are so lucky to have three gentlemen that regularly pick up trash along our entrance roads. They will tell you there is never a shortage of litter to pick up. At this time of the year I would like to send a special shout out to Gary and Betty Youmell. They decorated our gazebo for the holidays. Believe me, that is not an easy job.

I'm sure most of us have noticed that the Memorial Plaques have been placed on the palm tree leading into our community from Meadowoods. This is a nice way to pay tribute to loved ones. We still have 5 trees available for sale so if you are interested in purchasing one, please let me know. Each tree sells for \$300. We are also willing to sell some of the palms down by the gazebo for the same price.

I want to remind everyone that dumping yard debris on vacant lots is strictly prohibited. Please remember that every lot in the Lakes is owned and is private property. In the past we have received calls from residents complaining about the appearance of a vacant lot. When we contact the owner about it, more often than not they say their lot is an eye sore because other people throw their debris in there.

As a Board we continue to receive complaints about the upkeep and maintenance of a few homes in our neighborhood. Most residents in our neighborhood take great pride in their homes but it only takes a few bad apples to spoil the whole bunch. Some general rules that we should all follow are:

- Cut your grass when the length is uneven or is over 4 inches.
- Power wash your home at the first sight of mildew.
- Trim shrubs, bushes and trees to be symmetrical to the home.

The Board also receives a lot of complaints about speeding through the neighborhood. Please be courteous to others and obey our speed limits. It's a good idea to occasionally check your speedometer when traveling through the neighborhood.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a great 2019!

Litter-Free Zone

Karen and Dave Fuss

How many times have you driven or walked through the neighborhood and thought, “Where does all this trash come from?” And the companion question, “Where does it go?” It’s easy to blame others, but the fact is that much of our litter comes from us and our neighbors!

Litter in The Lakes creates a real eyesore and jeopardizes property values. Not only that, but when it rains trash finds its way into our swales, our storm drains and our lakes. Litter clogs the lakes and their drains, interferes with wildlife and is unsightly.

No problem, you say, it will just decompose and wash away, right? WRONG!! Some of the most common roadside items take generations or lifetimes to break down. Can you wait this long for these items to decompose on the side of the road??

Apple core = 2 months

Cigarette filter = 1-5 years

Plastic bag = 10-20 years

Aluminum can = 80-200 years

Plastic beverage bottle = 450 years

Glass bottle = 1 million years

Source: Turning the Tide on Trash: Pollution Solutions (Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence – Southeast), August 2007

Okay, not good, you say. But, what can we do about it? Well, we already have our trash patrol along the entry road and these volunteers do an impressive job of keeping things looking good. Why not help them by doing your part? When you walk the neighborhood or walk your dog, grab a plastic grocery bag to fill up with trash (dog walkers already carry bags for picking up after their pets, of course!) At least once a day, we pick up roadside trash while walking our dog, and it’s amazing how much we find each time. Besides picking up after the dog, we usually get ~20 cigarette butts (yes, even some with lipstick!), a handful of wrappers and papers, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and even sometimes smashed jewelry.

Please do your part by helping pick up trash in our neighborhood. It doesn’t take much effort to clean up a few things along the way and it truly makes a difference. Even better, don’t throw it out in the first place. Keep it clean and we all win!!

