



The Lakes Communicator

February 2023 Edition

President's Message – Charlene Carson

OPPORTUNITIES, OPPORTUNITIES, OPPORTUNITIES!!!

The Board and its committees continue to work on several initiatives that were identified in the January 2023 issue of The Lakes Communicator and have ideas for many more. One of the most significant constraints to our progress is time! We need more focused, concentrated amounts of time to share ideas, have in depth discussions (and/or disagreements) and develop plans.

One way to accomplish this is to reformat and repurpose the monthly Board meeting schedule. Beginning February 2023, the following changes will take place:

- Quarterly meetings with the community will be held in **January, April, July and October (annual)**.
- Board meetings in those months immediately after quarterly meetings (**February, May, August and November**) will be **working sessions** for the Board and committees. These meetings **WILL NOT** be open to observers. (In the event a homeowner issue arises that cannot wait until the next open Board meeting, arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis.)
- Open Board meetings (**March, June, September, December**) will start at **7pm** for observers. Board and committee members will convene at 6pm for discussion and meeting preparation. This segment of the meeting (6-7pm) will be closed to observers. Once again, in the event a homeowner issue arises that requires meeting with the Board, arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis, to meet during the 6-7pm time period.

I remain committed, as are the Board and committees, to making a difference in and for the community– it's just going to take time!

Many Thanks!

I have made multiple appeals and more recently those appeals have been echoed by the Communications Committee, encouraging Lakes homeowners to use electronic delivery (email) for all bulletins and The Lakes Communicator. While published every month, The Lakes Communicator is additionally printed four times a year (corresponding with the quarterly meetings) for those homeowners that do not choose electronic delivery. The costs associated with printing and mailing (USPS)

Table of Contents

President's Message	Pg. 1
Community News	Pg. 3
Lakes Office Reminders	Pg. 4
Committee Updates	Pg. 5
Project Updates	Pg. 7
Safety & Reminders	Pg. 7
Funny side of the Lake	Pg. 8
Events Calendar	Pg. 9
Contacts	Pg. 10

have continued to rise. So, it is with great appreciation that I say “THANK YOU” to the homeowners (30+) that have changed their delivery method to electronic!! Every little bit helps!!

Islands & Trucks

January was a month of wandering tractor trailers, with some resulting in damage to property – especially islands – well, one island in particular. These are not only tractor trailers delivering material to the construction site, but it’s also moving vans and deliveries to homes. The drivers are blindly (there’s a scary thought) following their GPS and not paying attention to signs that are posted.

If you are getting a delivery to your home, please ask the vendor to not send a tractor trailer/18 wheeler. We do not have truck turn around areas and our roads are narrow. They probably won’t listen, but it’s worth a try.

If you see a lost tractor trailer – especially one damaging property – yours or a neighbors – try to get a picture of the truck and license plate (if possible) as well as the damage AND send this information to Karen at LITUS (ktucker@litustolet.com) so we can make a claim. No guarantees, but we can try! Please also try to be patient with the drivers, many of them are as frustrated with the situation as you are.

Lastly, the islands in the community are not parking lots. Please do not park on them or let your guests park on them. Vehicles found/reported parking on islands are in violation of our rules and regulations. Fines and/or towing apply.

In Closing

Thanks to all those that have contributed to this publication and to those residents that quietly go about keeping our roadsides clean of debris. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Keep reading – there’s more great information to share.

See you next month!

Treasurer’s Report for February 2023, By Debbie Wolcott

It is a New Year, and many things throughout the association are changing.

I’ve personally been in and out due to my compressed vacation schedule due to fallout from the pandemic. I will return somewhat fully in mid-February.

Meanwhile, things are happening behind the scenes to initiate many changes because of feedback from the community over the past year.

Transition of accounts has occurred; an analysis of income and expenditures is being made; an audit (of prior years) is still in process by an independent auditor; water, electric, and property tax bills are being scrutinized and reviewed for potential cost savings.

In addition, Short / Long term projects are being identified throughout the Community; a Project Spreadsheet has been developed to ensure completion and follow through on all projects. All of these things, along with the overall increases in cost of living, impacts our community and our finances in a big way!

In March, I should be ready to give you a more accurate short / long term prognosis of our financial situation. With that said, I would like to ask now that we can be done with rehashing all the controversial projects of the past and move forward by making the changes that are required. We need that energy to move forward in a positive way.

I look forward to serving our community in this new and more challenging capacity!!! Thank you for the opportunity.

Community News & Updates



EASTER EGG HUNT

When: April 1, 2023

Time: 1pm

Where: The Lakes at the Park

Bring the children for an Easter egg hunt at the park. Eggs will be hidden on the park grounds for the children to find. There will also be goody bags for them!

Parking will be available in the office space adjacent to the park. Please remember to bring a chair if you would like and a basket for the children to collect the eggs.

This will be a rain or shine event. Please RSVP by March 27th. We need time to have enough eggs for all the children. If you would like to help, please contact Michele at lakesparkevents@gmail.com

WELCOME NIGHT – Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 6pm to 8pm

The Lakes Board would like to invite any current and new homeowners to a Welcome Night on February 22nd. This is an opportunity for new and current homeowners to meet the Board and community members who are interested in helping their new neighbors become acclimated to the Lakes. Information will be shared about current Lakes Events, the Architectural Control Committee, open volunteer opportunities, and more!

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Welcome Nights, please send your name and contact information to POALAKES@gmail.com and put Welcome Night in the subject line. No sign up or reservation is required to attend a Welcome Night





Horry County Traffic Enforcement Team

The Lakes Board has been in contact with the Horry County Traffic Enforcement Team (HCTET) to determine if there are ways, they can help the community with the ever-growing issues with speeding and failing to stop at stop signs. The HCTET has agreed to begin to add The Lakes to their targeted enforcements routines. The Board is working with the Team to provide specific areas of concerns. However, the HCTET and/or any Police Patrols can patrol and stop offenders at any portion of The Lakes.

Please slow down and obey the speed limit (20 MPH) and stop at stop signs!

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## Calling for 2023 Volunteers

Interested in volunteering? Please review the needs below and contact Karen at LITUS at [ktucker@litustolet.com](mailto:ktucker@litustolet.com). If you are unsure about where you want to volunteer or have previously volunteered and did not find a place to volunteer, please share your interest again. We have several new needs as we start to formalize our processes and expand the committees.

### New Request for Volunteers:

- ACC Chairperson – Bob White will be retiring as the chairperson of the ACC at the end of the year. We will miss his contributions and willingness to help the community! Huge THANK YOU to Bob!!! Bob has graciously agreed to help with the transition to a new chairperson.
- Pond Volunteers – Debbie is looking for 1-2 Volunteers per pond willing to help walk the ponds to look for a buildup of debris, signs of issues and or to monitor the general conditions.
- Road Committee Volunteers- Newly formed committee

**Open Committee Requests for Volunteers:** Beautification, Finance, Communications, General Maintenance, Engineering, Proposal Writing, Drainage, Policy/Procedure Writer.

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Reminders - The Lakes Office

Location: The Lakes Office is located in the building adjacent to the front entrance of the Lakes/park area! It will be staffed, by Board Members, to help assist the Community with items like copies of the ACC Booklet, general questions, copies of newsletters, **help signing up for electronic communications** via the Lakes website, etc. Review the attached calendar for the February Office Hours.

Reservations for Events: The Lakes Office is open and available for Homeowners to host small events such as game parties, book clubs, get togethers and more. Gambling, fund raising, and/or drinking events are

prohibited. The POA is a non-profit organization and is not able to allow or facilitate these types of events. Homeowners interested in reserving the Lakes Office should complete and submit a reservation request form. The forms are available at the office and on the Lakes website – Frontsteps – in a folder titled Office Reservation. The completed reservation form can be returned to the ACC Dropbox located outside the office or emailed to POALAKES@gmail.com . (Inquiries about date/time availability can also be sent to POALAKES@gmail.com prior to submitting a reservation.) Reservation requests should be submitted for consideration at least 1 week prior to the requested event date. Reservations will be approved on a first come, first serve basis, availability of the room and availability of the Office Coordinators who will need to open and close the space.

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## Committee Updates

**Architectural Control Committee (ACC)** – The ACC has received Board Approval to update the fence requirements. The new approved change is:

- Rear fencing may be installed a maximum of eight (8) feet beyond the sidelines of the house provided it does not extend into the 10-foot easement between property lines.
- Fencing may be installed up to the rear property line if the property backs up to non-buildable property such as woods, wetlands, or drainage easements.

The ACC Forms will be updated soon and located on the Lakes Website (Frontsteps) <https://thelakes.us/>

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Beautification Committee – The Committee is looking forward to several events next year including planting flowers by The Lakes signs in April, a “Plant or Donate Your Own Flower” Event in May, the formation of a Storm Debris Team and Trash Removal Team. If you are interested in being added to the list of Community Members who would be willing to be contacted to help during a cleanup event, please send an email to lakesbeautification@gmail.com .

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**By Laws/Covenants Review Committee** - The By-Laws Committee will be restarting the review of the By Laws and proposed changes at the end of Jan. Looking for further updates soon!

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Communication Committee – The Communication Committee is excited to share we are preparing a new communication survey to be launched in the coming weeks. Our goal is to understand how the committee can enhance the communication types and ways we communicate.

The Communication Committee would welcome suggestions. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer for the committee, please email Karen @ ktucker@litustolet.com .

Co-Chairs: Barbara Cardinal and Jeri Mathur

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**Pond Committee** – By Debbie Wolcott, Pond Committee/ Facilitator Chairman

Welcome to the New Year!!! I apologize for my rather long absence from duties but given my travels, the holidays, and cold weather spells, it appears I haven't missed too much. Pond activity during that time was minimal.

As the Board had indicated, we are laying very low on any non-essential projects while we reevaluate and prioritize overall community needs with the new Board members. We are also holding off on larger ticket items that had been anticipated but not moved forward on in 2022 (e.g., Rainbow Lake Dredging & Underwater Aeration).

In November and December of 2022, fish stocking of Carp and redear sunfish (for apple snail control) was accomplished in all the ponds, as was indicated in the November Newsletter,

We are happy to report that although pink egg masses are still visible throughout a many ponds, the visual number and intensity of both eggs and adult snails seems to be considerably reduced. We trust this has to do with the redear sunfish eating the newly hatched babies. In addition, Eagles have been observed in the area and they are capable of eating adult snails . . . further controlling the population.

**DEBRIS (in ponds)** - We need every homeowner's help in maintaining our ponds. Aside from our homes themselves, this IS the reason many of us moved here, and probably one of the most important contributions to our property values.

In November, we had two (2) areas of Hartwell Lake hand dredged because of the excess accumulation of natural debris. Huge trailer loads of debris were removed; however, it was hardly noticeable to the common onlooker. Trees surrounding these areas began dropping needles and leaves, and if you didn't look at the cleanliness and depth of the floor of the pond, it looked like nothing had been done. It is very, very expensive to remove this accumulation to maintain our wet retention ponds, at a depth suitable for protection during storms.

- Older Community sections: Our trees and plants now have as much as thirty-three (33) years of growth and fullness. This has increased debris exponentially. Please consider thinning out and/or removing trees closest to the ponds to reduce accumulated debris into the pond and prevent this from happening.
- Newer Community sections: Please be mindful that ANY plants or trees you plant today will continue to grow for years to come. Plan ahead so that today's landscaping plan will insure the ten (10) foot pond easement stays clear forever.

We also need to internalize the importance of insuring that NOTHING is ever disposed of in our ponds. That includes (but is not limited to): Grass, tree or brush clippings, dog waste, food waste (of any kind), trash, chemicals, etc.

Every single item added to our ponds increases maintenance and evaluation costs. It also impacts the health and wellness of our wildlife. If you have a landscaping contract, please remind them as well.

As always, it is my pleasure to continue to work with our homeowners. Please keep your correspondences coming through Karen Tucker at Litus.

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Road Committee – Committee Chair Jack Price shared at the Quarterly Lakes POA meeting that he is still looking for volunteers who can help share ideas and collaborate on how to move forward with reviewing the

Road Study, prioritizing the needs of the roads and create a plan on how to handle the likely cost. He is committed to providing a proposal at the next Board Meeting.

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**Social Committee** – The Social Committee is excited to share the tentative dates for The Lakes Community Event schedule for 2023.

- Easter Egg Hunt- April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1pm at The Lakes Park
- Community Barbeque – June 10<sup>th</sup>
- Halloween & Chili Cookoff – October 29<sup>th</sup>
- Lakes Holiday Event & Tree Lighting - December 9<sup>th</sup>

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Project Updates

- The Drainage Committee completed the correction of drainage issues on Wateree River Road and storm drain box repairs on Ashley River Road /Ashley Court.
- The General Maintenance Committee has completed the work to replace the utilities box on Lake Murray.
- Three signs have been ordered for Long Lakes Extension, Lake Monticello and Lake Sunrise, the New Lake to be created in Horton Construction Area. The signs will be installed as soon as possible after their arrival.

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## Safety Corner – Outdoor Firepit Safety



**When using your firepit please consider:**

- Be mindful of the potential impact of smoke and ash to your neighbors while using your firepit.
- Burn only materials approved for your firepit and do not add items like trash, leaves, yard debris, plastic, etc.
- Ensure your fire is out and cool before leaving the pit unattended after use.
- Keep an appropriate fire extinguisher near your firepit in case there is an emergency with your fire.



## Neighborly Reminders

- Community fishing is only allowed in the two (2) entry ponds, Lake Murray (off Swan Lake & Waccamaw) and Lake Okatee (by Meadowood's Entry), or on your own personal lakefront lot. Fishing in any other area is considered TRESPASSING. Also note that, the powerline areas belong to the electric company, with some sections by homeowners; therefore, this too is PRIVATE PROPERTY. Respect the right of homeowners to not have people "cruising their shoreline" and violating their privacy. Additionally, if you are a fisherman, protect our wildlife by avoiding casting near any animal. Also, make every effort to retrieve stray lures and/or fishing line. We have had to untangle or unhook too many swans.
  - Parking on the Lakes Islands is not permitted at any time!
  - POA dues must be mailed to LITUS or paid electronically on The Lakes Website. Payments should NOT be dropped in the ACC Box at The Lakes Office.
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## How to share a question or concern with The Lakes Board

Have you ever wondered about how to send a question, concern, feedback, or comment to the Lakes Board? There are several ways to communicate with the Board.

- Homeowners can send requests to Karen at LITUS via email at [ktucker@litustolet.com](mailto:ktucker@litustolet.com).
  - Homeowners can also attend the POA Quarterly Homeowner Meeting
  - Homeowners can request to present a topic to the Board at Public Board Meetings. Please send a request to Karen at least one week prior to the Board Meeting.
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## On the Funny Side of the Lake



# FEB 2023

| SUN       | MON                                              | TUE                          | WED                                                                                                | THU                                              | FRI                                              | SAT       |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|           |                                                  |                              | <b>01</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 12pm -<br>3pm                                                   | <b>02</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 9am -<br>12pm | <b>03</b>                                        | <b>04</b> |
| <b>05</b> | <b>06</b>                                        | <b>07</b>                    | <b>08</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 12pm -<br>3pm                                                   | <b>09</b>                                        | <b>10</b>                                        | <b>11</b> |
| <b>12</b> | <b>13</b><br>The Lakes Board<br>Working Session  | <b>14</b><br>Valentine's Day | <b>15</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 12pm -<br>3pm                                                   | <b>16</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 9am -<br>12pm | <b>17</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 12pm -<br>3pm | <b>18</b> |
| <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br>Presidents Day                      | <b>21</b>                    | <b>22</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 12pm -<br>3pm<br><br>Welcome Event<br>Lakes Office 6pm -<br>8pm | <b>23</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 9am -<br>12pm | <b>24</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 12pm -<br>3pm | <b>25</b> |
| <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br>Lakes Office<br>Hours 12pm -<br>3pm | <b>28</b>                    |                                                                                                    |                                                  |                                                  |           |

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Monday, March 13th, 6pm at the Lakes Office

Next Quarterly POA Meeting: Monday, April 17th, 6pm -7:45pm at Inlet Square Mall

## Horry County Community Information

### LOCAL HOSPITALS

|                      |                                  |                |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Tidelands Waccamaw   | 4070 US 17 Bypass Murrells Inlet | (843) 652-1000 |
| Conway Medical Ctr   | Singleton Ridge Rd Conway        | (843) 347-7111 |
| South Strand Med Ctr | 5050 US 17 Bypass Myrtle Beach   | (843) 839-1000 |
| Grand Strand Med Ctr | 809 82nd Pkwy Myrtle Beach       | (843) 692-1000 |

|                                 |                               |                |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| MB VA Outpatient Clinic         | 1800 Airport Dr               | (843) 477-0177 |
| MB VA Outpatient & Primary Care | 1101 Johnson Ave Myrtle Beach | (843) 577-5011 |
| Market Commons VA Clinic        | 1101 Johnson Ave Suite R2A    | (843) 477-0177 |

### POLICE AND FIRE

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Horry County Police Non-emergency | (843) 915-5350 |
| Horry County Fire & Rescue        | (843) 915-5190 |

### REC CENTERS

|                                |                                         |                |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Horry County Parks & Rec       | 2830 Oak St Conway                      | (843) 915-5330 |
| Pepper Geddings Rec Ctr        | 3205 N Oak St Myrtle Beach              | (843) 918-2280 |
| Claire Chapin Epps Family YMCA | 5000 Claire Chapin EPPS Dr Myrtle Beach | (843) 449-9622 |
| South Strand Rec Ctr           | 9650 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach             | (843) 915-5333 |
| Burgess Community Ctr          | 10299 SC 707 Myrtle Beach               | (843) 650-2796 |

### COUNTY OFFICES

|                             |                               |                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Horry County Treasurer      | 9630 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach   | (843) 915-5470 |
| Horry County Auditor        | 9630 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach   | (843) 915-5052 |
| Horry County Clerk of Court | 9630 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach   | (843) 915-5080 |
| Horry County Probate Court  | 1301 2nd Ave<br>Conway        | (843) 915-5370 |
| Myrtle Beach DMV            | 1330 Howard Pkwy Myrtle Beach | (843) 839-8003 |
| SC DMV                      | 1200 21st Ave N Myrtle Beach  | (843) 448-9957 |

### RECYCLE CENTERS

|  |                                            |                |
|--|--------------------------------------------|----------------|
|  | 9610 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach (closed Thurs) | (843) 347-1651 |
|  | McDowell Shortcut (closed Tues)            | (843) 347-1651 |
|  | 4670 Jones Rd                              | (843) 347-1651 |